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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 2026-01-23
Bill No: HB117

Sponsor: Torres-Velaquez E., Diane
HIGHER ED
Short Title: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA REPORTING

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Chisholm, Mark
mark.chisholm@hed.nm.gov
Phone: 5052716754 **Email:** nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund Affected

FY26	FY27	FY28	or Nonrecurring	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Relates to HB465 in 2023

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 117 (HB117) directs that New Mexico public higher education institutions (HEIs) enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the New Mexico Constitution collect voluntarily provided demographic data that pertains to the educational attainment of a prospective student's parent, legal guardian, or fictive kin on the institution's application or registration form. The data is to be reported to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) along with other demographic data and used by NMHED in reporting both separately and in combination with other demographic data. HB117 includes provisions to ensure that individuals are not identifiable in reports and enumerates the types of reports where this data can and should be used.

NMHED's analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB117 does not provide an appropriation, but there would be additional costs to NMHED and HEIs. NMHED would need to revise their database, data collection templates, and reporting procedures. HEIs may need to revise their application and/or registration forms to collect this additional data and also revise their reporting programs to include this data in data files submitted to NMHED.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMHED currently collects data from HEIs through the Electronic Data Editing and Reporting System (eDEAR). This includes demographic data on students, and, in 2025, a new field was added to collect the

parent education level that is reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Not all students complete the FAFSA, so the collection only provides data on students who do complete FAFSA.

It would be possible for NMHED to collect the information identified in HB117 in eDEAR as part of regular data collection from HEIs, but this would require that many HEIs in the state start collecting comparable information. Several HEIs have started to collect parent educational data, but they do not all use the same definitions. In some cases, “first-generation” is interpreted to mean neither parent completed a bachelor's degree while in other cases it means neither parent attended college at all. Consistent definitions would need to be developed, and HEIs may have to modify their existing data collection forms and data systems to accommodate the new definitions. This process could take at least a year for all HEIs to implement.

In addition, HEIs could start to collect this information for all new students, but, unless they were to survey all currently enrolled students, the information would only be available for new enrollees. It could be many years before this data became available for a majority of enrolled students.

This data would be beneficial to collect. The previous college experience of students' parents has been shown to be correlated with student success, and HEIs could develop programs to provide additional support to first-generation students if they know who those students are.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific performance measures listed in HB117, but the ability to track the success of first-generation students would be a useful performance measure for HEIs and NMHED.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMHED and HEIs would need to update systems for collection, transfer, storage, and reporting to accommodate the new data collection and reporting requirements in HB117.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

2023 House Bill 465 HB465 called for the collection of parent educational levels but did not pass into law.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB117 only applies to HEIs enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the New Mexico Constitution. This would exclude all community colleges and possibly branch community colleges. The branches are components of constitutionally created institutions, but they also have separate statutory authorization. In addition, eDEAR data is provided by most of the tribal colleges in New Mexico. Were this data to be collected, it would be most useful if all public, postsecondary institutions in New Mexico were included.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

The data currently being collected for students who complete a FAFSA can be used to perform many of the analyses recommended in HB117 for that subgroup of students.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB117 is not passed, no changes in the data collection of parent's educational level will be mandated, but many institutions may continue to collect similar data and do their own internal analyses, and NMHED will continue to have the FAFSA parent's educational level data available.

AMENDMENTS

N/A