



LFC Requester: Hilla

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: January 27 2026

Bill No: HB156

Committee Referrals: HCPAC/HHHC

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Hochman-Vigil/Thomson

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Short Title: REPEAL SPECIAL SESSION
VACCINATION LAWS

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
None	None	N/A	NFA

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY27	FY28	FY29	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	N/A	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None as of 1/27/26.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 156 (HB156) would remove a temporary provision that replaced federal vaccine guidance through the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control's](#) (CDC) [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) with state guidance through July 1, 2026.

Specifically, the bill would repeal Laws 2025, Chapter 5, Sections 1 through 8. Those laws, which are to become effective on July 1, 2026, proposed repeal of several sections of the [Immunization Act](#), [the Vaccine Purchasing Act](#), and the [Insurance Code](#) related to the immunization of children in the state. The effect of this repeal is that current law for these sections would remain as they are currently compiled.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In January 2026, the acting director of CDC announced changes to the childhood vaccination schedule, reducing the number of recommended childhood vaccines from 17 to 10. These changes, previously made after rigorous review of scientific evidence through public hearings and votes taken by the ACIP, were made by the CDC without input from the advisory body. Further, new evidence to support these changes has not been publicly provided by CDC.

Prior to [Senate Bill 3](#) (SB3) of the First Special Session of 2025, New Mexico's vaccine recommendations were tied to CDC ACIP recommendations. Given that CDC has made these recent recommendations without input from ACIP and without public release of new evidence, HB156 will continue to allow the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) to make recommendations based on publicly available data from a wider range of professional organizations: the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, or the American College of Physicians.

The provisions of the bill would ensure at-risk groups and children and adults ages 2-64 have the option to continue to receive vaccinations that offer additional protection.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Because the bill would maintain current law, repealing 2025 Session Laws before they become effective, HB156 changes nothing with regard to PED administrative powers or duties.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In June 2025, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reconstituted the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, removing all 17 of the former members and replacing them with 13 new members as of January 27, 2026. The new committee has been the subject of controversy, as the committee Chair, Dr. Kirk Milhoun, has [questioned the need for mandatory vaccinations for students](#). Additionally, other members of the committee have expressed skepticism in the past for infectious disease research and voted to remove the option for combined measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccines for children under four. This bill would allow DOH to continue to rely on their own expertise along with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which [has been critical](#) of the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, to formulate immunization recommendations for New Mexico, providing New Mexico families with consistent and expert-informed vaccination recommendations.

Specifically, HB156 would repeal session laws of the First Special Session of 2025 that were meant to repeal and replace certain existing sections of law, which will now remain in effect, including:

- [Section 24-5-1 NMSA 1978, Immunization Regulations](#), which requires the DOH to consult with the Public Education Department (PED) and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) to promulgate rules for immunization of children attending licensed childcare, early childhood programs, and public, private, home, and parochial schools. These rules are to be in accordance with the guidance of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, or the Department of Health.
- Section 24-5-2 NMSA 1978, Unlawful to enroll in school or licensed childcare programs unimmunized; unlawful to refuse to permit immunization, which bars a child from enrolling in school, childcare, early childhood programs unless they have been immunized according to DOH rules.
- Section 24-5A-2 NMSA 1978, Definitions of the Vaccine Purchasing Act.
- [Section 24-5A-3 NMSA 1978](#), Statewide Vaccine Purchasing Program, which directs DOH to establish and implement a statewide purchasing program to expand access to childhood immunizations recommended by DOH.
- [Section 24-5A-5 NMSA 1978](#), Authorized Uses of the Vaccine Purchasing Fund, which requires the fund be used for the purchase and distribution of vaccines recommended by DOH for uninsured children.
- [Section 59A-18-16.2 NMSA 1978](#) of the Insurance Code, Health insurance or health plan form and rate filings; superintendent; rulemaking; compliance with federal law, which establishes parameters for health insurance plans, including for immunizations.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB156 is not passed, already existing language will sunset and will inhibit DOH from being able to procure vaccines and therefore reduce vaccine access statewide.

AMENDMENTS

None.