

LFC Requestor: Sunny Liu

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 256

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 02-02-2026

Sponsor(s): Pamela Herndon and Yanira Gurrola

Short Title: Defibrillators at School Athletic Events

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27	FY 28		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: SB123 Defibrillators in Schools

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House Bill 256 (HB256)) would amend Section 22-33-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2014, Chapter 50, Section 2) to require NM schools to install an automated external defibrillator (AED) for use on school grounds and during a school athletic activity. It would also require all high school employees to be trained in the use of automated external defibrillators. The law would apply to all public non-charter high schools no later than the 2026-2027 school year; and (2) elementary schools, middle schools, charter schools and private schools no later than the 2027-2028 school year.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

It is estimated that over 20% of the United States population can be found in schools, including students (<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/school-enrollment-report.html>) and teachers (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/185012/number-of-teachers-in-elementary-and-secondary-schools-since-1955/>)

The chances of surviving cardiac arrest drop by about 7%-10% every minute that defibrillation is delayed, and the average Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response time in the United States is about seven minutes (<https://corp.publicschoolworks.com/resource/why-aeds-are-a-must-have-in-schools-a-superintendents-guide/>). That median time increases to more than 14 minutes in rural settings, with nearly 1 of 10 encounters waiting almost a half hour for the arrival of EMS personnel. Longer EMS response times have been associated with worse outcomes in trauma patients. In some, albeit rare, emergent conditions (e.g., cardiopulmonary arrest, severe bleeding, and airway occlusion), even modest delays can be life threatening. (<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/fullarticle/2643992>)

The costs of implementation, equipment, and training are not addressed in this bill as no appropriation is included. According to PED data, New Mexico has 220 high schools alone ([New Mexico School Districts | US News Best High Schools](#)). With an average cost of more than \$1,500.00 per AED, equipment costs would exceed \$330,000.00 for initial start-up in high schools (<https://americanaed.com/?srsltid=AfmBOooxoueBDJpRfX2hpxTq-B2WCEQoZYqRbrFR2puuBpUA2V3sYXW1>). Additionally, costs for official Red Cross cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED training is a minimum of \$50 per person (https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class?scode=PSG00000E017&gclid=01672fcfd6a614f19fa2485fc185abcb&gclsrc=3p.ds&&cid=generator&med=cpc&source=google&msclkid=01672fcfd6a614f19fa2485fc185abcb&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=FACPR%20%7C%20NonBrand%7CSearch&utm_term=bls%20training%20classes%20near%20me&utm_content=All%20Classes).

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?
 Yes No
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB123 Defibrillators in Schools.

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

Rural areas are less likely to have AEDs available as there are fewer large public spaces where AEDs are usually found, and those same areas have fewer clinics and hospitals as well. Therefore, AEDs in schools, especially in rural and remote areas, could potentially offer a way to improve these disparities.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

AEDs are potentially lifesaving for someone in sudden cardiac arrest from a dysrhythmia, so there would be anticipated health benefits from having AEDs more accessible in public spaces around the state such as high schools.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If HB256 is not enacted, schools in New Mexico will not be required to install AEDs for use on school grounds or during a school athletic activity.

12. AMENDMENTS

None