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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

[LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV](mailto:LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV)

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*{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:** 2026-02-06  
**Bill No:** HM53

**Sponsor:** Lujan, Tara L.  
STUDY "GIFTED-IN-FIELD" TEACHER  
**Short Title:** ENDORSEMENT

**Agency Name and Code** NMHED  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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

<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>or Nonrecurring</b>	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

House Memorial 53 (HM53) requests that the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) examine the feasibility of establishing a “gifted in-field” endorsement for middle and high school gifted education teachers. The memorial highlights that secondary gifted students often require both advanced, content-specific instruction and targeted support for social-emotional growth and leadership development. It directs NMPED to collaborate with public postsecondary institutions and gifted education organizations to assess potential coursework and qualification criteria that would demonstrate advanced subject-matter expertise for such an endorsement.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department’s (NMHED) 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**

The memorial does not include an appropriation.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Council for Exceptional Children and the National Association for Gifted Children provide standards for gifted teachers at the national level. Overall, the standards focus on using strong content knowledge, culturally responsive and advanced curriculum, and valid, unbiased assessments to identify students, support their growth, and evaluate programs. Candidates are trained to differentiate instruction, use data and technology effectively, support students’ social-emotional development, and prepare learners for future education and careers. Collaboration is a central theme, with educators working closely with

families, colleagues, and community partners to design and improve services and programs that help students with gifts and talents thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

HM53 would assess potential coursework and qualification criteria for a “gifted-in-field” endorsement that would demonstrate advanced subject-matter expertise.

- HM53 directs NMPED and New Mexico’s higher education institutions to collaborate on identifying potential qualifications for the proposed endorsement. However, the memorial does not clarify whether this collaboration would include the state’s educator preparation programs, subject-matter experts in high-need fields, or both.
- The memorial does not define the scope or nature of the “advanced subject-matter expertise” to be examined through the proposed research, leaving unclear which disciplines or competency levels would be considered.
- HM53 does not specify whether NMPED would be responsible for producing the research deliverables or whether higher education institutions and subject matter experts would lead the development of curriculum and endorsement recommendations.
- The memorial establishes no timeline for completion of the research or for incorporation of its findings into a proposed “gifted-in-field” endorsement framework.

#### PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If the study is conducted, its outcomes may impact the curricula of teacher preparation programs at New Mexico higher education institutions.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMPED would administer the program.

A detailed, collaborative study would require staff time and coordination across multiple agencies and institutions, though the memorial does not include an appropriation.

#### CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

#### TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

#### OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

#### ALTERNATIVES

N/A

#### WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HM53 is not enacted, NMPED will not examine the feasibility of establishing a “gifted in-field” endorsement for middle and high school gifted education teachers.

AMENDMENTS

N/A