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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: 2026-02-10
Bill No: HM57

Sponsor: Torres-Velaquez E., Diane
BILINGUAL EDUCATOR
Short Title: CREDENTIALING

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Gallegos, Brittany
brittany.
Phone: 5056706478 **Email:** gallegos@hed.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:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Memorial 57 (HM57) requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) conduct a study of best practices for credentialing bilingual educators, including English as a Second Language instructors, in consultation with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), higher education institutions (HEIs), and relevant professional organizations. The memorial aims to address shortages of qualified bilingual educators and improve educational outcomes for bilingual students by informing future legislative recommendations and rulemaking. The committee is requested to publish its findings and recommendations by August 15, 2026.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (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

HM57 does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HM57 requests a study of best practices for credentialing bilingual educators, a topic with direct implications for New Mexico's HEIs that prepare teachers and administer educator preparation programs. Because higher education institutions play a central role in training bilingual educators and offering coursework required for endorsements, the findings of this study could inform future policy, program design, and interagency coordination.

From a higher education perspective, significant issues include:

- Impact on NMPED and educator preparation programs: NMPED oversees curricula for educator preparation programs and will need added support and additional staff to implement any recommendations. Additionally, New Mexico’s public HEIs offer coursework and preparation pathways required for bilingual educator endorsements. Any future changes to credentialing standards or requirements resulting from this study could necessitate curriculum revisions, program restructuring, or additional faculty capacity.
- Coordination between NMPED and NMHED: The memorial highlights the need for communication and coordination between the Public Education Department and higher education institutions. Clear alignment between credentialing requirements and higher education program offerings is essential to ensure that students can efficiently complete pathways leading to bilingual educator licensure.
- Capacity to address workforce shortages: HEIs are a key pipeline for increasing the supply of bilingual educators statewide. The study’s recommendations may influence enrollment, program expansion, and resource needs at institutions seeking to respond to chronic shortages in bilingual and English as a Second Language educators.
- Timeline and implementation considerations: The committee is requested to publish findings and recommendations by August 15, 2026. Depending on the scope of the recommendations, higher education institutions may need time to implement any resulting changes to programs or credential-aligned coursework.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HM57 has no direct performance implications for NMHED, as the memorial requests a study to be conducted by LESC and does not impose new reporting, implementation, or evaluation requirements on NMHED.

However, the study’s findings and any subsequent policy or rulemaking recommendations could have performance implications for HEIs. Depending on the recommendations, institutions that offer educator preparation programs or bilingual education coursework may need to assess program capacity, alignment with credentialing standards, and potential modifications to curricula or program delivery to support future credentialing pathways.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HM57 is generally clear in its intent; however, several areas may benefit from clarification as the study is undertaken.

- Scope of Credentialing Review: The memorial requests a study of “best practices for credentialing bilingual educators,” including English as a Second Language instructors, but does not specify

whether the review should focus solely on endorsement requirements or also include preparation program design, clinical experiences, or alternative pathways. Greater clarity on scope could help ensure consistent interpretation of the study's charge.

- Roles of Participating Agencies: While the memorial calls for consultation with NMPED, HEIs, and professional organizations, it does not delineate specific roles or responsibilities for each entity in the study process. Clarifying expectations for participation may support more efficient coordination.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HM57 references consultation with professional organizations but does not specify their role, level of involvement, or responsibilities within the study process.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HM57 is not enacted, no formal study would be conducted to review best practices for credentialing bilingual educators or to develop related recommendations for future consideration.

AMENDMENTS

N/A