



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: February 17 2026

Bill No: HM65

Committee Referrals: HGEIC

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

Sponsor: Torres-Velásquez / Herndon

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**Short Title:** HEALTH & FIREARM SAFETY TASK FORCE

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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 |
|--------------|------|------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total</b> | None | None | None | N/A               | N/A                       | NFA           |

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None as of 2/17/2026.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Memorial 65 (HM65) would request the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), to convene a task force to conduct research on health and firearm safety policy, compile recommendations to reduce firearm violence in the state, and report those findings by September 15, 2026 to the interim Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee and the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. The memorial would request that the Public Education Department (PED) be among the groups represented in the task force.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HM65 would request that representatives from the PED be included in the task force to review and research health and firearm safety and compile recommendations for the legislative interim committees. The other specified participants in the task force would be representatives from the DOH, DPS, health care entities and hospitals, the Children, Youth, and Families Department, the New Mexico School Boards Association, community and prevention stakeholders, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the police chiefs of Albuquerque, Las Cruces, or Santa Fe, the Albuquerque Community Safety Department, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos.

The areas that the task force would be requested to review and consider are effective firearm licensing laws and regulations, effective policies on semiautomatic and large capacity magazines, data demonstrating the effects of identifying if a group should be prohibited by law from owning a firearm, such those with DWI convictions, alignment of state and federal laws on the consequences of a felon possessing a firearm, tobacco and firearms licensing prior to granting new retail licenses to new gun or liquor stores, and toxicology for perpetrators of gun violence.

Between 2011 and 2023, the [age adjusted firearm death rate](#) in New Mexico increased by 71 percent. In 2023, New Mexico's death rate was 85 percent higher than the age adjusted firearm death rate nationwide. The rate of firearm injury emergency department visits for children age one to 17 increased by 25 percent between 2020 and 2024. Additionally, 299 children between 13 and 18 years old were detained for a delinquent act in which a firearm was involved from September 2023 to September 2024. In that same time frame, 16 firearms were found at Albuquerque Public Schools. As firearm violence and safety is a concern in the state for both adults and for school children, the task force would likely look to develop policy recommendations that would target the population at large as well as targeting violence at home and in schools.

New Mexico has passed some significant firearm-related legislation in recent years. For example, the state passed a [law requiring background checks for all gun sales](#), an [Extreme Risk Gun Law](#), [several domestic violence protections](#), a [secure storage law](#), and a [prohibition on auto sears](#) (devices that alter the trigger mechanisms of semi-automatic pistols and rifles to enable the guns to fire rounds continuously). All together, these laws have increased New Mexico's ranking in

[Everytown's Gun Law Rankings](#) to 16 from 17 last year (Everytown is a national gun violence prevention organization). The higher ranking means that the state has enacted stricter firearm legislation compared to the other 50 states in the country.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The administrative burden of organizing and leading the task force would largely fall on the DOH with collaboration from DPS. The PED's only responsibility would be to send representatives to contribute to the task force.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to:

- [House Bill 324](#), School District Firearm Safety Training, which would require annual firearm training for students in schools from sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and would allow school districts to choose to provide firearm training to students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
- [Senate Bill 167](#), Crime of Deadly Weapon on School Premises, which would change the crime of unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon on school premises to a third-degree felony.
- [Senate Memorial 20](#), Statewide Youth Violence Summit, which would request the DOH to convene a summit to develop a statewide approach to mitigate youth violence.
- [Senate Memorial 28](#), which would request the Crime Victims Reparation Commission to convene a statewide crime prevention task force to study the issue of gun violence in New Mexico and to make recommendations for addressing the issue.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The sponsor may wish to amend line 19 of page one to pluralize the word "solution" as the official title of the referenced center is the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.