

LFC Requester:

Emily Hilla

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/15/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 70 Original X Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: William Soules **Agency Name and Code Number:** ECECD 61100
Short Title: Universal Basic Income Pilot Project **Person Writing Analysis:** Elizabeth Groginsky
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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

SB 70 proposes the creation of a two-year Universal Basic Income (UBI) pilot program administered by the Department of Health to assess the financial and health impacts of providing regular cash support to pregnant individuals from pregnancy through the first year of life of an infant. The program, scheduled to run from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028, would provide enrolled participants who are pregnant and have incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty line with \$1,500 per month. Participants would be placed in either a test group receiving the UBI or a control group for comparison. In addition to the monthly payments, the program would require participants to receive home visits from the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, or an approved entity, complete periodic surveys and research forms, and attend prenatal care appointments as defined pursuant to the Public Health Act in a frequency recommended by a health care provider. If participants in the test group fail to meet requirements for home visits or prenatal care appointments, they would be reassigned to the control group. The Department of Health is tasked with establishing an application process and, following the conclusion of the pilot, must report findings to the Legislative Education Study Committee by December 1, 2028. The bill appropriates \$80 million from the state general fund to the Department of Health in fiscal years 2027 and 2028 to support the pilot program, with unspent funds reverting to the general fund at the end of fiscal year 2028.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Because the bill assigns implementation responsibility to the DOH it may be more difficult to coordinate services with all early childhood programs, including the existing home visiting programs administered by ECECD, early intervention services provided by ECECD's Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program, and infant-toddler child care.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB 70 states that participants who do not comply with the requirements of home visitation, completing surveys, and attending prenatal care appointments are placed in the control group. This implies that only the test group of participants would receive the \$1,500.00 per month income, but it is not stated explicitly. The bill does not clarify how the participants would be sorted into the

control group and the test group, or what would happen if their income changed during the course of the project. Also, while prenatal care appointments are required, well child checks are not required even though the program continues for the first year of the child's life. Additionally, the timing of this pilot project as written presents some issues for participant eligibility. SB 70 mandates that DOH distribute universal basic income to participants in the amount of \$1,500.00 per month "through the duration of the program." SB 70 specifies that the program "shall begin on July 1, 2026, and shall end on June 30, 2028." As written, SB 70 requires that participants receive payment for two (2) years. Additionally, because of the requirement that the program end on June 30, 2028, participants beginning the program in 2027 or early 2028 may not receive the full benefit of the basic income for the duration of their pregnancy and for the full first year of their child's life. This conflicts with the definition of "universal basic income pilot program" under Section 1(B), which seeks to evaluate the financial impact of universal basic income "from pregnancy through the first year of life of an infant."

Additionally, there is a question as to how the control group will be managed. It is unclear if any prohibitions will be imposed on the control group and if those prohibitions might cause any harm to the participants.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

Assign responsibility jointly between DOH and ECECD for the implementation of the program

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB 70 is not enacted, the universal basic income pilot program will not be implemented.

AMENDMENTS