



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: January 20 2026

Bill No: SB73

Committee Referrals: SEC/STBTC

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

Sponsor: Berghmans

**PED Lead Analyst:** Thomas Cloward

**Phone:** (505) 637-1352 **Email:** thomas.cloward@ped.nm.gov

Short DRIVER'S ED  
Title: REQUIREMENTS

**PED Policy Senior Manager:** denise terrazas

**Phone:** (505) 470-5303 **Email:** denise.terrazas@ped.nm.gov

**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.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: The bill would amend the [Public School Code](#) by expanding requirements for Public-Education Department (PED)-approved driver education programs to include education and training on driving with “vulnerable road users,” which the bill defines as:

- a pedestrian, including a person engaged in work or in the provision of emergency services upon or along a roadway;
- a person riding or leading an animal; or
- a person lawfully operating or riding a bicycle, tricycle or other pedal-powered vehicle, a farm tractor or similar vehicle designed primarily for farm use, a skateboard, a scooter, a moped, a motorcycle, roller skates, inline skates, an animal-drawn wheeled vehicle, an electric personal assistive mobility device, a wheelchair or another similar means of transportation in which the person is not surrounded by a shell of protection such as that which a car or truck provides."

Specifically, the bill would require PED or its designee to adopt and promulgate standards for driver education to include at least three hours of education and training on driving with vulnerable road users.

This bill has an effective date of January 1, 2027.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

In 2025, according to the [New Mexico Department of Transportation](#), New Mexico had 381 motor-vehicle related fatalities, 144 (37.7 percent) of which were vulnerable road user fatalities. According to a 2019 report from the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#), motor-vehicle accidents involving vulnerable road users are much more likely to result in a fatality than others, and the proportion of motor-vehicle accidents involving vulnerable road users has been growing each year throughout the country. The bill’s requirement to include both training and education as mandatory for driver’s education may provide new drivers with the strategies and awareness to avoid accidents with vulnerable road users and reduce the number of New Mexicans that die in motor-vehicle accidents each year.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The bill would require PED or its designated representative to include at least three hours of training and education on driving with vulnerable road users in its minimum standards for drivers education courses taught at schools.

Currently, PED assigns the New Mexico Department of Transportation (DOT) as its designee for purposes of the development and administration of driver's education course content and materials for public schools. As PED's designee, the Department of Transportation would make the modifications to current course content to reflect the provisions of the bill. It should be noted the bill imposes identical requirements directly upon the Traffic Safety Bureau of DOT through amendment of the Motor Vehicle Code.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

None.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.