

LFC Requester:	Jacobs
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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: 1/30/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 75 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Michael Padilla **Agency Name and Code** AOC 218
Short Title: FOSTERING CONNECTIONS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY **Number:** _____
Person Writing Alison B. Pauk
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	None	Unknown

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	

(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	None			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

Synopsis: Senate Bill 75 amends Section 32A-26-3 NMSA 1978, with the intention to modify the eligibility section of the Fostering Connections Program. Specifically, SB 75 changes the criteria in Section 32A-26-3(A)(2)(a) by expanding the eligibility from young people who are adjudicated pursuant to the Children’s Code to those young people, “in the legal custody of the department or any other state’s foster care system as a result of abuse and neglect proceedings, families in need of court-ordered services proceedings or voluntary placement agreement.”

There is no appropriation listed in this bill.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is May 20, 2026, which is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a minimal administrative cost for statewide update, distribution and documentation of statutory changes. Any additional fiscal impact on the judiciary would be proportional to the enforcement of this law and commenced prosecutions and appeals from convictions, as well commenced civil actions and appeals. New laws, amendments to existing laws and new hearings have the potential to increase caseloads in the courts, thus requiring additional resources to handle the increase.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

(1) The Fostering Connections Act was enacted from 2019’s SB 23 for the purpose of establishing and providing young people in New Mexico with what is commonly known as “extended foster care.” The intent of extended foster care is to help young people, also referred to as “eligible adults” in the Act, who have aged out of the foster care system with services and supports to transition them to adulthood.

(2) The Annie E. Casey Foundation describes the importance of extended foster care in the following paragraphs found at <https://www.aecf.org/blog/extended-foster-care-explained>:

Research shows that extending support into the first few years of adulthood can make a clear, positive difference in the lives of youth in care. Young people gain more time to develop critical life skills, relationships and resources that can help them thrive as adults. Child welfare agencies gain more time to pursue permanency and prevent having a young person age out of the system alone and unsupported.

Providing this extended support into young adulthood is particularly important for youth of color and LGBTQ youth who are overrepresented in the foster care system and are more likely to experience negative outcomes.

(3) The federal government amended their title IV-E foster care program in the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) to allow states the option of allowing young people to remain in foster care after reaching the age of 18 and up to the age of 21.

(4) SB 75 removes the requirement that a young person must be adjudicated under the Children’s Code and instead broadens the eligibility to include young people who were in the legal custody of CYFD as a result of abuse and neglect proceedings, families in need of court ordered services (called FINCOS), *or* a voluntary placement agreement (VPA). Removing the requirement of adjudication will allow those young people, who were in the custody of the department but whose cases never reached adjudication, to have the same access to the Fostering Connection Program as those who were adjudicated.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The courts are participating in performance-based budgeting. This bill may have an impact on the measures of the courts in the following areas:

- Cases disposed of as a percent of cases filed
- Percent change in case filings by case type

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

See “Fiscal Implications,” above.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES –

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Young people who were in the custody of CYFD but *not* adjudicated will not be eligible for the Fostering Connections Program.

AMENDMENTS