

LFC Requestor: Sunny Liu

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: Senate

Category: Bill

Number: 123

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 01/26/2026

Sponsor(s): Pete Campos

Short Title: Defibrillators in Schools

Reviewing Agency: Center for Healthy and Safe Communities

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$4,000	Rekurs through FY29	General Fund

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 26	FY 27	FY 28		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

Senate bill 123 makes an appropriation to the Public Education Department (PED) for grants to public schools that meet the requirements in Subsection A of Section 22-33-6 NMSA 1978. These funds shall only be used to purchase, install, test, or maintain automated external defibrillators.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

The American Heart Association recommends that AEDs be available in all public areas where large numbers of people gather, including schools. It is estimated that over 20% of the United States population can be found in schools; this includes both students (<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/school-enrollment-report.html>) and teachers (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/185012/number-of-teachers-in-elementary-and-secondary-schools-since-1955/>).

The chances of surviving cardiac arrest drop by about 7%-10% every minute that defibrillation is delayed, according to the American Heart Association Journals, and the average Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response time in the United States is about 7 minutes (<https://corp.publicschoolworks.com/resource/why-aeds-are-a-must-have-in-schools-a-superintendents-guide/>) That median time increases to more than 14 minutes in rural settings, with nearly 1 of 10 encounters waiting almost a half hour for the arrival of EMS personnel. Longer EMS response times have been associated with worse outcomes in trauma patients. In some, albeit rare, emergent conditions (e.g., cardiopulmonary arrest, severe bleeding, and airway occlusion), even modest delays can be life threatening. (<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/fullarticle/2643992>).

There are questions of liability with the use or non-use of AEDs in the school setting. While Good Samaritan Laws offer legal protection to people who give assistance to those who are, or whom they believe to be injured, ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated, they do not necessarily protect the school or school district.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?
 Yes No

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

Rural areas are less likely to have AEDs available as there are fewer large public spaces where AEDs are usually found, and those same areas have fewer clinics and hospitals as well. Therefore, AEDs in schools, especially in rural and remote areas, could potentially offer a way to improve these disparities.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

AEDs are potentially lifesaving for someone in sudden cardiac arrest from a dysrhythmia, so there would be anticipated health benefits from having them more accessible in public spaces around the state such as schools.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If SB123 is not enacted, \$1.2 million would not be appropriated to PED over three years to support the purchase and installation of external defibrillators for school districts.

12. AMENDMENTS

None