

LFC Requester:

Carlie Malone

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 2/5/26 **Bill Number:** SB0231 **Original**  **Amendment**  **Substitute**

**Short Title:** STUDY COMMUNITY-BASED FOSTER CARE

**Sponsor:** Sen. Lopez, Sen. Pope, Sen. O'Malley, Sen. Jaramillo, Sen. Pinto

**Name and Code Number:** HCA 630

**Person Writing:** Jennifer Williams

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** SB 231 directs the Office of the Child Advocate to undertake systematic studies of costs and reimbursement practices in key areas of child welfare.

Every five years: Conduct a comprehensive study of the costs and reimbursement rates for community-based foster care placements and treatments.

Every six years: Conduct a separate study of the costs and reimbursement rates for legal representation provided to children in the custody of the Children, Youth and Families Department due to abuse or neglect.

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund to the Office of the Child Advocate for FY2027 to support the cost of conducting the mandated studies. Any unexpended funds revert to the general fund.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not modify Medicaid eligibility, covered benefits, provider rates, or administrative responsibilities of the Health Care Authority therefore there is no fiscal impact to the HCA.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

None.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Office of Child Advocate, administratively attached to the NMDOJ, would be responsible for implementing this bill. HCA Medical Assistance Division (MAD) would participate in the studies to determine health care costs for children in foster care.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

MAD would provide data to the Office of Child Advocate to inform the cost of health care studies. CYFD would be required to implement the bill July 1, 2026.

No administrative implications for ITD.

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

None.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

MAD would supply data to the Office of Child Advocate regarding payment for foster care services.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

Status quo

**AMENDMENTS**

None