



LFC Requester: Sanchez

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

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: February 17 2026

Bill No: SM28

Committee Referrals: SRC

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Pinto/Pope/Lopez

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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
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: [House Bill 2](#), the General Appropriation Act of 2026, contains an appropriation of \$15.709 million for the Crime Victims Reparation Commission to provide financial assistance and information to victims of violent crime in New Mexico.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Memorial 28 (SM28) would request the Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC) to convene a statewide crime prevention task force to study the issue of gun violence in New Mexico and to make recommendations for addressing the issue. The task force would be composed of representatives of the CVRC, the Public Education Department (PED), the Higher Education Department, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health, the Health Care Authority, the Children, Youth and Families Department, the Department of Game and Fish, the University of New Mexico, Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico, Pueblo law enforcement and federal and local law enforcement agencies, gun advocates and distributors, and anti-domestic violence and sexual assault groups.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The [CVRC](#) was created in 1981 through the Crime Victims Reparation Act ([Section 31-22-1 NMSA 1978](#)) to provide financial assistance to victims of violent crime in regard to expenses incurred as a result of victimization. The committee administers federal flow-through funding which is sub-granted to private non-profit and governmental programs throughout New Mexico to improve and expand services to victims of crime. The CVRC also provides training and outreach services alongside hosting the [Annual Advocacy in Action Conference](#) each Spring.

The aims of the study would be:

- to address the root causes and contributing factors of gun violence in New Mexico and identify strategies and policies that can reduce the incidence of gun violence in the state;
- examine current state and federal laws related to gun ownership;
- examine ways to promote public education and awareness about the risks of gun violence and the importance of responsible gun ownership and storage; and
- engage with community leaders, law enforcement officials, health care professionals and other stakeholders to develop and implement effective strategies and policies to prevent gun violence and enhance public safety.

SM28 tasks those involved with creating different stakeholder tables with different parties in order to define the problems, identify the risk and protective factors, define effective strategies and identify ways to develop and test prevention strategies regarding gun violence and public safety. The memorial would also request that the task force report its findings and conclusions to the interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, and the governor. Copies of the memorial should be transmitted to the CVRC for distribution to members of the task force.

As noted in SM28, gun violence is a significant issue in New Mexico. [Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#) highlights that New Mexico's overall gun death rate has consistently increased since 2014 and that gun violence costs the state \$6.2 billion every year (approximately \$2,945 per person).

New Mexico has however passed some significant legislation with regard to gun policies in recent years. For example, the state passed a [law requiring background checks for all gun sales](#), an [Extreme Risk Gun Law](#), [several domestic violence protections](#), a [secure storage law](#), and a [prohibition on auto sears](#) (devices that alter the trigger mechanisms of semi-automatic pistols and rifles to enable the guns to fire rounds continuously). Combined, these laws have increased New Mexico's ranking in [Everytown's Gun Law Rankings](#) to 16 from 17 last year (Everytown is a national gun violence prevention organization). The higher ranking means that the state has enacted stricter firearm legislation compared to the other 50 states in the country.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The PED would be a member of the crime prevention task force and likely need to provide data related to violence and safety in schools across the state. Similarly, as a member of the task force, the PED would need to participate in researching and developing the findings, likely as an actionable report.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

- [House Bill 324](#), School District Firearm Safety Training, which would require annual firearm training for students in schools from sixth through 12th grade, and would allow school districts to choose to provide firearm training to students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
- [House Memorial 65](#), Health & Firearm Safety Task Force, which would request the Department of Health and Department of Public Safety to convene a task force to conduct research and develop recommendations to reduce firearm violence.
- [Senate Bill 167](#), Crime of Deadly Weapon on School Premises, which would change the crime of unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon on school premises to a third-degree felony.
- [Senate Memorial 20](#), Statewide Youth Violence Summit, which would request the DOH to convene a summit to develop a statewide approach to mitigate youth violence.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.