

LFC Requester:	
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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: _____ *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SM032 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor:	<u>N Tobiassen, C Spence Ezzell, LM Trujillo, N Figueroa</u>	Agency Name and Code Number:	<u>CYFD - 690</u>
Short Title:	<u>FOSTER CARE STUDENTS TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS</u>	Person Writing	<u>Kathleen Hardy</u>
		Phone:	<u>505-660-8508</u> Email <u>Kathleen.hardy@cyfd.nm.gov</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(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						

(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: This memorial asks the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) to study issues relating to transportation barriers for students in foster care.

The memorial further asks that the LFC include in the study:

- an examination of existing barriers to providing appropriate transportation for students in foster care across the state, including an analysis of recent proposals that aim to provide reimbursements and tax credits within the foster care system;
- identify existing gaps in support or funding;
- clarify the timeline or information necessary for state agencies to determine the actual transportation costs for a student in foster care; and
- strategies that will ensure comprehensive and consistent funding to address the complicated issue of transportation barriers for students in foster care.

The LFC is asked to report its findings by or before November 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained within this memorial. Any fiscal implication for providing LFC data relating to this matter will be absorbed by existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Under federal law (Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015, 20 USC 6301) and the New Mexico Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights, children in foster care have a right to remain in their school of origin unless it is determined to be in their best interests to change schools. School districts are required to provide transportation for foster students to and from their school of origin. Additionally, 6.41.4.9 NMAC requires local education agencies to develop and implement procedures as to how this transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded, and further requiring local education agencies to provide transportation promptly and in a cost-effective manner.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures concerning placement stability which may be positively affected by the implementation of recommendations resulting from this study.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Any administrative implications for providing LFC data relating to this matter will be absorbed by existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None proposed.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None proposed.