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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
57th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2026

Bill Number	<u>SM20/aSHPAC</u>	Sponsor	<u>López/Pope/O'Malley/Jaramillo/Pinto</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.233384.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SRC/SHPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>Statewide Youth Violence Summit</u>		
Analyst	<u>Hicks</u>	Original Date	<u>2/12/2026</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/18/2026</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of SHPAC Amendment

The Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee amendment to Senate Memorial 20 (SM20/aSHPAC) adds language which revises the proposed membership of the statewide youth violence summit planning group to include youth and families with lived experiences of the juvenile justice system, victims of youth violence, and one senator and one representative appointed by the New Mexico Legislative Council on recommendation from the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House.

Synopsis of Original Memorial

Senate Memorial 20 (SM20) requests the Department of Health (DOH) to convene a statewide summit on youth violence, develop a comprehensive statewide approach to youth violence mitigation, and create a strategy to expand research-based community violence prevention and intervention services. A final report of DOH's findings and recommendations is requested to be published and presented to relevant interim legislative committees by November 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Although SM20/aSHPAC has administrative implications for several New Mexico agencies, LESC bill analyses focus specifically on potential impacts for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) education and the teacher workforce in those schools.

Summit Planning Group Membership. SM20/aSHPAC requests DOH to create a planning group to advise the agency on the agenda and other details of the statewide summit on youth violence. This planning group would consist of representatives from:

- The Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD);
- The Health Care Authority (HCA);
- The Public Education Department (PED);
- The Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA);
- The chief public defender;
- Youth and families with lived experiences of the juvenile justice system;
- Victims of youth violence; and
- One senator and one representative appointed by the Legislative Council based on the recommendation of the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives.

Youth Violence Summit. SM20/aSHPAC requests DOH to organize and convene a statewide summit on youth violence and related prevention and intervention strategies. SM20 specifically outlines the following goals for the summit:

- Disseminating research and best practices on youth violence prevention and intervention;
- Disseminating state, local, and national examples of successful programs addressing youth violence;
- Understanding current data trends and community needs regarding youth violence in New Mexico;
- Identifying promising approaches and gaps in prevention and intervention strategies in the state;
- Developing recommendations for a statewide youth violence prevention and intervention vision grounded in community voice and research, including needed investments;
- Developing strategies to scale up promising approaches;
- Strengthening data collection and reporting;
- Providing technical assistance and training to local communities and stakeholders; and
- Developing a plan and vision for a statewide office to oversee and support youth violence mitigation initiatives.

Report Parameters. SM20/aSHPAC requests DOH to produce a final report with the summit's findings and recommendations, as well as proposed investments and legislation to implement a comprehensive statewide approach to youth violence.

Memorial Recipients. Copies of the memorial would be transmitted to the governor, DOH, PED, HCA, CYFD, AODA (for distribution to district attorneys), the chief public defender, and the Administrative Office of the Courts (to be shared with children's court judges).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would be requested to participate in summit planning, necessitating PED staff time and resources. SM20/aSHPAC does not specify a specific bureau in PED to support the summit, though the department does operate a Safe and Healthy Schools Bureau focused on similar topics in K-12 settings.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Disconnected Youth in New Mexico. Measure of America, a data project of the Social Science Research Council, publishes annual reports on youth disconnection in the United States. Disconnected youth are defined as young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in

school or employed. According to the [2024 Measure of America report](#), the most recent report available, youth disconnection is associated with higher levels of criminal activity, as well as lower educational attainment and higher rates of substance use. In [2022](#), New Mexico had a youth disconnection rate of 15.3 percent, compared with 10.9 percent nationally. A 2025 edition of the report is forthcoming.

Time Frame of Juvenile Crime. According to a [2019 report](#) from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national organization of police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors, a survey of 36 states (not including New Mexico) saw a spike in juvenile crime between the hours of 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The report noted this time window is when children are more likely to be unsupervised because of their parents' or guardians' work schedules.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) Files
- Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)
- Health Care Authority (HCA)
- Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD)
- Public Education Department (PED)

CLH/mam/mca/jkh