

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SM 28

49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010

Tracking Number: .181165.1

Short Title: Adolescent Birth Rate Reduction Task Force

Sponsor(s): Senator Linda M. Lopez and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 10, 2010

Bill Summary:

SM 28 requests that the Department of Health (DOH) convene a work group to develop a single, well-planned, and comprehensive strategy to:

- reduce adolescent pregnancy;
- address the issue of unintended pregnancy;
- improve reproductive health outcomes for youth; and
- develop a continuum of services to prevent adolescent pregnancy and provide support to adolescent parents.

The workgroup shall include representatives from:

- Public Education Department;
- Children, Youth and Families Department;
- Workforce Solutions Department;
- Human Services Department;
- New Mexico Forum for Youth in Communities;
- Children's Cabinet;
- New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition; and
- Local and county governments.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

Memorials requesting that state agencies conduct studies are likely to have a fiscal impact in terms of staff time, travel, office supplies, and other items. This impact could be especially pronounced if the agencies are experiencing budget reductions or staff furloughs.

Technical Issues:

HM 28 does not contain any reporting requirements.

Background:

According to the DOH analysis of HM 28, in 2007, although the birth rate for 15-17-year-olds in New Mexico decreased, it was still 32.9 per 1,000 females, or nearly one and one-half times higher than the birth rate among adolescents in the United States.

DOH, in collaboration with the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition, recommends five strategies to reduce teen pregnancy:

- family planning clinical services;
- comprehensive sex education;
- male involvement programs;
- adult-teen communication programs; and
- service learning programs.

DOH and the other agencies named for collaboration in HM 28 currently fund many of these kinds of programs.

Reducing adolescent pregnancy is a goal of the *State of New Mexico 2008 Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan*, which recommends improved collaboration among state agencies and community partners to provide precisely these kinds of services.

Related Bills:

SJM 3 *Unintended Pregnancy Advisory Panel*