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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018

Bill Number	<u>SM2/aSPAC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Soules</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.208954.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SRC/SPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>Study Gun-Related Injuries & Deaths</u>		
Analyst	<u>Herz</u>	Original Date	<u>1/18/18</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/9/18</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment to Senate Memorial 2 (SM2/aSPAC) removes the Children, Youth and Families Department as one of the departments directed to collect data on gun-related injuries and death.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Memorial 2 requests that state executive agencies collect data on gun-related injuries and deaths and appropriate interim legislative committees recommend potential changes to statutes to reduce the impact of gun violence on school-age children and young adults.

FISCAL IMPACT

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations. However, the collection of gun-related injury and death data could impose administrative and financial costs on executive agencies.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Since 2013, 277 school shootings have occurred across the country, including two incidents in New Mexico. In 2014, a 12-year-old boy shot and injured two students at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell. In December 2017, a 21-year-old male opened fire at Aztec High School, killing two students before fatally shooting himself.

Nationwide, gun-related injuries and deaths among children under the age of 18 have increased from 2,939 in 2014 to 3,965 in 2017, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit organization formed to provide information about gun-related violence in the United States. This represents a nearly 35 percent increase in four years. The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence indicates 4.2 percent of children under 18 witnessed a shooting during the year prior to the survey.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the firearm suicide rate among children and teenagers has increased significantly in the past five years. Nationwide, New Mexico had the fourth highest rate of suicide mortality among people of all ages in 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SM2 requests the Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, and the Children, Youth and Families Department collect detailed data regarding gun-related injuries and deaths, and prepare reports for presentation to the appropriate interim committee.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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