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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number HB168 **Sponsor** Trujillo, L./ Stefanics
Tracking Number .211463.1 **Committee Referrals** HEC
Short Title Student ID Number Tracking & Reporting
Analyst Stiles **Original Date** 1/25/19
Last Updated _____

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 168 (HB168) would require the Public Education Department (PED) to track students by identification numbers and report students who are not continuously enrolled to the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD).

FISCAL IMPACT

HB168 does not contain an appropriation.

PED estimates a 0.3 to 0.5 FTE would be needed to meet the requirements of HB168. PED further notes a new tracking system may need to be developed to meet the requirements of HB168.

CYFD analysis notes SB168 would likely result in additional referrals of neglect to CYFD, necessitating an expansion of personnel at CYFD statewide central intake. CYFD states it is not known whether an increase in referrals will result in an increase in investigations.

HB168 would require school districts and charter schools to report student enrollment every 10 days rather than every 40 days. The fiscal impact to school districts and charter schools is unknown, however some larger school districts have indicated they would need to implement a new reporting system, which may cause a fiscal impact on districts.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB168 would require PED to run a report on student identification numbers every 10 days, and if a student's identification number indicates the student is not enrolled in a public school and has not graduated or earned a high school equivalency credential, PED would be required to communicate with the student's last known school district or charter school to attempt to determine the student's whereabouts. If the school district or charter school does not have current information about the student, PED would be required to report the disenrollment and lack of known whereabouts to CYFD.

HB168 would require school districts and charter schools to notify PED when a student withdraws from one school district and enrolls in another public or private school in New Mexico or elsewhere, as indicated by the request for a records transfer by the enrolling school. HB168 would also prohibit any public school in New Mexico from assigning a new student identification number to a student who was previously enrolled in a New Mexico public school. The school district or charter school would be responsible for determining if the student had ever been enrolled in a public school in New Mexico and would be required to use the original student identification number.

PED analysis indicates it is not technically feasible for the department to run a report tracking student identification numbers every 10 days because the data that would populate the report are only submitted to PED by school districts and charter schools at 40 day intervals. PED notes a change in reporting intervals would need to be implemented for PED to meet this requirement. PED analysis also indicates public schools do not currently alert PED when a student withdraws or enrolls. Currently PED is made aware a student has transferred schools when a record transfer is requested, though PED analysis states “the at-risk population this bill is trying to identify may not have parents re-enrolling and asking for records to be transferred.”

CYFD analysis notes, SB168 would require PED to report every case of disenrollment of a child when the school district or charter school cannot confirm current enrollment information about the student, which may result in over-reporting to CYFD.

Some larger school districts indicate they have concerns with the HB168’s provisions. While enrollment data is available in real time, there is no mechanism to accurately report this information to PED every 10 days. Some districts also indicated HB168 is problematic because there is no mechanism in place for each school to notify PED of records requests. The school districts stated they already use a student’s current identification number if the student has been enrolled in a New Mexico school, though including language in the bill to require PED to provide a system for districts to determine whether or not a student already has an identification number would help districts to have the tools to implement this requirement.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would need to develop a system to track students by identification numbers and to produce a report every 10 days to ensure all students are accounted for.

School districts and charter schools would need to develop a system to report student enrollment to PED every 10 days. School districts and charter schools would also need to implement a system to allow them to report when students enroll or disenroll in a school and when a request for a records transfer by an enrolling school is received.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

PED notes other state agencies, including CYFD and the Bureau of Indian Education, should be included in SB168 so students have one identification number for any state agency.

HB168 does not address a procedure for students who withdraw from public school to be home-schooled.

Subsection B of HB168 only requires school districts to notify PED if a student disenrolls from the school district and enrolls in another public or private school in New Mexico or elsewhere, but it does not require charter schools to notify the department if a student disenrolls.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)
- Children Youth and Families Division (CYFD)
- New Mexico Attorney General (AG)

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