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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/9/19

SPONSOR Ruiloba/Dow **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HM** 75

SHORT TITLE Foster Care Student Educational Stability **SB** _____

ANALYST Klundt

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact		Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Responses Received

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 75 (HM75) requests the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the Public Education Department (PED) convene a task force to study the educational stability of students in foster care and review and make recommendations to CYFD, PED, school districts, charter schools, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), and the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) for the creation of statutes, policies, and procedures to create standardization and consistency for educational stability for students in foster care. HM75 requests the taskforce include

- A. An employee of PED with a special education background
- B. The foster care point of contact for CYFD
- C. A children's court judge or designee
- D. An urban school district representative who is a foster care point of contact
- E. A rural school district representative who is a foster care point of contact
- F. A foster parent or designee
- G. A representative from the New Mexico coalition for state charter schools and
- H. A representative of law enforcement within the school community.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No appropriation is made.

Personnel from a number of state government agencies or other publically funded organizations are requested to patriciate in this taskforce resulting in a fiscal impact for staff time and resources, which will need to be absorbed by the existing operating budget.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HM 75 requests the taskforce to consider the following:

- A. review the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) pertaining to ensuring educational stability for children in foster care;
- B. make recommendations for consideration concerning responsibilities for foster care points of contact for the children, youth and families department, the public education department, school districts and charter schools;
- C. make recommendations for consideration concerning the process for the children, youth and families department and school districts or charter schools to ensure that transportation for children in foster care is arranged, provided and funded and to recommend solutions to ensure that the cost of transportation is not a factor in determining the best interest of the child;
- D. make recommendations for considerations concerning dispute resolution if the children, youth and families department and the school district or charter school do not agree on a best-interest determination decision or transportation plan;
- E. make recommendations for consideration concerning the establishment of a mechanism through which relevant parties, such as the student, the student's family, the student's immediate caregivers, whether a foster family or kinship placement, can meaningfully participate in the best- interest determination; and
- F. make recommendations for consideration concerning transparency around educational stability for students in foster care and training needs for traditional foster care, treatment foster care, residential treatment centers, school districts, foster care case workers and others.

KK/sb