

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)).

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/2020

SPONSOR Thomson/Garratt LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HM 24

SHORT TITLE Study Needs of NM Students SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Gaussoin

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

HM24 relates to: HB53, HB59, HB134, HB241, HB65, HB127, SB96, SB132, SB171, SB174  
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Files

#### No Response Received

Public Education Department (PED)

Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)

School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)

New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 24 requests the Public Education to convene a task force to study and make recommendations concerning staffing levels of support and related services staff in the public schools. No less than 70 percent of the membership, to be appointed by the PED secretary, must be current school nurses, social workers, counselors, librarians, and special-education-related services staff in public school representing geographically diverse locations. The task force would be requested to report its findings to the governor and Legislative Education Study Committee by November 1, 2021.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain an appropriation but providing staff to support the task force would involve PED resources. The cost of providing these resources is likely minimal.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has some of the highest rates of children with adverse childhood experiences, traumatic experiences that affect a child's health and future, and often the highest rate of childhood poverty. The 2019 *New Mexico Kids Count* ranks New Mexico 50<sup>th</sup> on indicators of child well-being. HM24 argues “public school educators are often the first responders in students’ lives,” and teachers and students depend on school nurses, counselors, social workers, and psychologists to ensure “ever-increasing complexity” of students’ needs are met.

A focus of the court ruling in the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* education sufficiency lawsuit was the needs of students at risk because of poverty, English proficiency, or disabilities. As a result, the Legislature has increased funding for the at-risk differential in the public school funding formula to allow school districts and charter schools to pay for programs and services aimed at directing the special needs of at-risk students.

The LFC in its budget proposal recommends increasing the weight of the at-risk factor from 0.25 to 0.27 at a cost of \$20 million. The executive recommend would increase spending on the at-risk factor by \$50 million.

Between FY18 and FY20, the funding for at-risk students more than doubled, from \$101.6 million to \$252.9 million, in the formula.

## RELATIONSHIP

HM24 relates to

HB53, which would require nursing, school counseling, and behavioral health services be treated as a part of “basic sufficient education” and require these services be culturally and linguistically relevant;

House Bills 59 and 241 (and its duplicate, Senate Bill 171), which would change the weight of the at-risk factor;

HB65, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Health for school-based health centers;

HB127, which would require PED to convene a task force to conduct an asset mapping and gap analysis of public school students’ access to social services;

SB96, which would require schools to report on at-risk expenditures;

SB132, which would appropriate \$5 million to employ and place nurses in public schools; and

SB174, which would create a special education division within PED.

It also relates to the General Appropriation Act, which contains funding for at-risk students, and HB134, which contains funding for college preparation programs for special education teacher.

HFG/al