

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

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SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 2024-01-25
Bill No: HM20

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Agency Name ECECD 611
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Short STUDY CLASS SIZE
Title: REDUCTION

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
NFI	NFI		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

NFI	NFI	NFI		

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATION BUDGET (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

HM20 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee study class size reductions for kindergarten through twelfth grade classes, including potential effects on student outcomes, staffing and funding.

HM20 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee work with representatives from the public education department, the higher education department, the legislative finance committee, the early childhood education and care department, leadership from school districts and charter schools, teacher unions and educator preparation programs. HM 20 requests that research findings and recommendations be submitted to the governor and legislature and be published by December 31, 2024.

The study is to be conducted taking into consideration that less than 1 in four students scored "proficient" in reading and math on the national assessment of educational progress tests in 2022; the large proportion of students identified as at-risk: one in four children living in poverty; higher than the national averages of English language learners and children with disabilities; and the marked impact of the corona virus pandemic on students and disrupted instructional time. Research that indicates that the reduction in class size can be an effective means to improve educational outcomes, student engagement and student behavior particularly in elementary grades.

Additional considerations of the study include high levels of teacher turnover, alternative licensure pathways for educators that require little to no classroom experience and the movement to lower classroom sizes would require hiring additional teachers and educational assistants as New Mexico continues to face workforce shortages in this area.

The Legislative Education Study Committee will work with representatives from the public education department, the higher education department, the legislative finance committee, the early childhood education and care department, leadership from school districts and charters schools, teacher unions and educator preparation programs. Research findings and recommendations to the governor and legislature and published by December 31, 2024.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The inclusion of NM PreK class sizes in the study would be beneficial as current research shows that PreK children in smaller classrooms are found to gain more in literacy skills by the end of preschool (Relating preschool class size to classroom quality and student achievement; Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Volume 49, 4th Quarter), improving kindergarten preparedness and establishing a stronger foundation for improved educational outcomes.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HM20 is not enacted, the study of class size reductions for kindergarten through twelfth grade classes will not take place.

AMENDMENTS

Amendment recommendation is the inclusion of NM PreK class size in the study of class size reductions.