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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 157

SHORT TITLE: Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Website

SPONSOR: Jones/Dow

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 01/29/2026 **ANALYST:** Chilton

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
DOH: Helpline Expansion	0	\$443.3	\$443.3	\$886.6	Recurring	General Fund
DOH: Website	0	\$8.8	\$8.8	\$17.6	Recurring	General Fund
Total	0	\$452.1	\$452.1	\$904.2	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Department of Health

Health Care Authority

Children Youth and Families Department

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Office of Family Representation and Advocacy

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 157

House Bill 157 (HB157) appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Department of

Health (DOH) for the purpose of developing a website and hotline that would provide information on “social services, financial assistance, adoption services, pregnancy and parenting information, planning guidance, care centers and other available public and private resources for expectant families and new parents.”

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

Department of Health (DOH) has estimated the cost of developing and maintaining the envisioned website would cost \$8.8 thousand per year, a continuing expense. DOH estimates that three FTE specialist nurses would be required to staff the hotline, at a total cost (including personnel, office space and equipment) of \$443.3 thousand per year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Pregnancy and parenting – especially parenting young children-- stress young parents. Although myriad resources exist to help with general concerns or specific problems, they are not organized in a way that makes them easy to access. As with any other subject in the internet era, a mix of good information and misinformation can be hard to negotiate; the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the Health Care Authority both emphasize the importance of selected resources that avoid misinformation.

Home visiting services are available throughout much of New Mexico, with trained and personable home visitors providing needed support, sometimes beginning during pregnancy, sometimes after the birth of a baby. The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) has been instrumental in supporting early home visiting programs and directing young families to them.

Among sources of reliable information available by telephone, the DOH Health Helpline and the ECECD hotline provide reliably good information. United Way of North Central New Mexico provides good information about available services on its 2-1-1 line. Many pediatric and family practice offices and community clinics offer telephone help to their patients.

Information is on parts of the DOH website and through the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Medicine Practitioners and numerous other groups.

As noted by DOH, having a respected single source for New Mexico parents-to-be and parents would be a major forward step in improving the well-being of young New Mexico families, despite the current availability of the in person, telephone, and online services mentioned above.

However, as also mentioned by DOH, the appropriation of \$100 thousand will not go far in

providing a working hotline, though it might be sufficient to fund the specified website.

DOH also points out the importance of marketing a website and/or a hotline, and of continually updating the information available through both, since resources in New Mexico communities are continually changing.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH points out the importance of assuring access to a website and a helpline to all New Mexicans, including those who speak another language, those who have limited or new internet access and/or phone service, and those whose reading ability is limited.

HCA mentions the importance of having information about birth and abortion options available through the website and hotline and suggests that omitting crisis pregnancy centers may be prudent, as they would likely “not align with evidence based practice or recommendations by professional organizations.”

LAC/ct/cf