

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

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Memorial 14

SHORT TITLE: Addressed Forced Sterilization Policy

SPONSOR: Lopez/Pinto/Sedillo Lopez/Charley/Nava

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 1/30/2026 **ANALYST:** Hernandez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
IAD	See "Fiscal Implications"	See "Fiscal Implications"				
CSW	See "Fiscal Implications"	See "Fiscal Implications"				

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

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

Agency or Agencies That Declined to Respond
Commission on the Status of Women

Because of the short timeframe between the introduction of this bill and its first hearing, LFC has yet to receive analysis from state, education, or judicial agencies. This analysis could be updated if that analysis is received.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Memorial 14

Senate Memorial 14 (SM14) calls for the Indian Affairs Department and the Commission on the Status of Women to conduct a comprehensive study into the history, scope, and continuing impacts of the forced sterilization of Indigenous women and women of color in New Mexico.

The study is to include a list of all known and potential cases of forced or coerced sterilization conducted through the U.S. Indian Health Services or their contracted health providers, a record of survivor testimony, an assessment of the accessibility of reproductive health services for Indigenous women and other women of color, and a review of educational, policy, and potential reparations with recommendations.

The study—with proposals to establish a “truth and reconciliation commission,” a statewide

reproductive justice program, and a public memorial—should be presented to the governor and Legislature no later than December 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain appropriations and are not enforceable as state law. However, the study requested in this memorial is outside of the normal operations of the agencies involved and is likely to result in additional costs for the agencies of up to \$100 thousand for staff time, travel, and contracted services.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Indigenous women and women of color in New Mexico were subjected to forced sterilizations until 2018, according to the memorial. The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service often engaged in forced sterilizations of Indigenous women. The memorial says research dating to the 1970s indicates that between 25 and 50 percent of Indigenous women were sterilized, with some of the highest incident rates occurring in New Mexico.

AH/hg/ct