

1 HOUSE BILL 408
2 57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025
3 INTRODUCED BY
4 Nicole Chavez and Meredith A. Dixon and Eleanor Chávez
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO CHILDREN; REQUIRING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND
12 FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY EVERY FIVE YEARS TO
13 STUDY THE COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PROVIDING
14 COMMUNITY-BASED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS AND TREATMENTS; MAKING
15 AN APPROPRIATION.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. A new section of the Children's Code is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] RATE STUDY--COSTS--REIMBURSEMENT RATES--
21 COMMUNITY-BASED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS--TREATMENTS--REPORT.--

22 A. Beginning in fiscal year 2026, the department
23 shall conduct a study every five fiscal years to study the
24 costs and reimbursement rates for providing community-based
25 foster care placements and foster care treatment for children

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underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 in foster care, including the costs of:

2 (1) resources to address the safety and
3 physical and emotional well-being of a child, parent, guardian
4 or foster parent;

5 (2) payments to reimburse resource families
6 for the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision,
7 school supplies, personal incidentals and reasonable travel
8 expenses to meet the needs of a child in that resource family's
9 care; and

10 (3) any other applicable costs or
11 reimbursements as identified by the department.

12 B. The studies required in Subsection A of this
13 section shall be provided to the legislative finance committee,
14 with the initial study provided no later than December 1, 2025.
15 Each additional study shall be provided no later than December
16 1 of the calendar year in which the study is conducted.

17 C. For the purposes of this section, "resource
18 family" means a person or entity licensed by the department or
19 licensed by another state's child welfare agency or a licensed
20 child placement agency that provides foster care services,
21 including respite, non-relative, relative or treatment foster
22 care. "Resource family" includes foster parents as defined by
23 Subsection K of Section 32A-1-4 NMSA 1978 and preadoptive
24 parents as defined by Subsection Z of Section 32A-1-4 NMSA
25 1978."

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