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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018

Bill Number SM8 **Sponsor** Steinborn
Tracking Number .209516.1 **Committee Referrals** SRC/SEC
Short Title Study School Suicides & Gun Violence
Analyst Herz **Original Date** 1/24/18
Last Updated _____

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Memorial 8 requests that the Public Education Department and the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) study potential solutions to decrease the rates of suicide by firearms and gun violence in schools and report their findings to the LESC by October 1, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Since 2013, 277 school shootings have occurred across the country, including two incidents in New Mexico. In 2014, a 12-year-old boy shot and injured two students at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell. In December 2017, a 21-year-old male opened fire at Aztec High School, killing two students before fatally shooting himself.

Nationwide, gun-related injuries and deaths among children under the age of 18 have increased from 2,939 in 2014 to 3,965 in 2017, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit organization formed to provide information about gun-related violence in the United States. This represents a nearly 35 percent increase in four years. The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence indicates 4.2 percent of children under 18 witnessed a shooting during the year prior to the survey.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the firearm suicide rate among children and teenagers has increased significantly in the past five years. Nationwide, New Mexico had the fourth highest rate of suicide mortality among people of all ages in 2016.

RELATED BILLS

SM2, Study Gun-Related Injuries & Deaths, which requests that state executive agencies collect data on gun-related injuries and deaths, and asks the appropriate interim legislative committees recommend potential changes to statute to reduce the impact of gun violence on school-age children and young adults.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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