

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation for this Bill.

Funding for school busses currently comes out of the Public School Capital Outlay Fund. This bill provides that PED shall cover the cost of an electric or zero emission school bus up to the amount it would cover for a diesel school bus. Any excess costs shall be the responsibility of the school districts. The New Mexico Construction Industries Division recently adopted the 2021 Commercial Energy Code and included requirements for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for passenger vehicles. This included requiring schools to provide 5% of the required parking with EV stations, with another 5% for future stations. This did not include EV stations for busses. Current estimates show approximately a 40% increase in electrical costs to install the infrastructure and devices required for EV stations. Depending on the size of the fleet, this could have a significant cost impact on new school construction.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Without proper electrical infrastructure and devices, a district cannot make a proper transition towards electrification of a school bus fleet. As mentioned in the Fiscal Impact section, EV stations have a large electrical demand, which typically requires upgrading the electrical service to a facility or site.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

School districts will not have the option to replace a school bus with an electric or zero emission alternative fuel school bus.

AMENDMENTS

N/A