

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 2025-01-23

Bill No: SB6

Sponsor(s) Michael Padilla
:

Agency Name CYFD 69000
and Code
Number:

Person Writing Scott J Patterson-Alatorre

Analysis:

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Short FOSTERING
Title: CONNECTIONS PGM
ELIGIBILITY

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATION BUDGET (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

If enacted SB 6 would

Amend the statute to reflect the needs of youth who have aged out of foster care.

Remove the current requirement that a youth must be adjudicated pursuant to the Children’s Code or tribal law to be eligible for the Fostering Connections Program.

Expands eligibility to include youth who aged out while in state custody or under a voluntary placement agreement.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No significant fiscal implications identified.

The potential cost to the state is negligible. Extended Foster Care is already in place, and CYFD will be able to draw down federal IV-E funds to cover the costs associated with these additional enrollments if the child is already Title IV-E eligible. If the child is not eligible, the State General Funds will need to cover the costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None identified

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB 6 allows CYFD to improve capacity to meet the needs of and provide support to ALL youth who age out of foster care at age 18.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB 6 has minor, but important, administrative implications.

If enacted, this bill will allow CYFD to provide services and support to additional youth to include transition planning support as well as provide access to fiscal resources to effectuate their transition plans.

If enacted, this bill will allow youth to receive the support of the monthly housing first maintenance payments, effectively increasing their fiscal resources and increasing the likelihood of creating housing stability.

If enacted, this bill will allow youth to receive case management support to identify and connect with community-based resources and services to support the attainment of their goals, including educational and employment supports.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None Identified

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None Identified

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None Identified

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If not enacted, youth who are not eligible under the current statute would remain ineligible to receive these services. This has the potential to produce unnecessary barriers for youth who are transitioning into young adulthood following involvement with the system, to include ineligibility for fiscal assistance and assistance in navigating employment, housing and educational systems. Youth impacted by the system have a higher likelihood of experiencing housing instability, decreased school enrollment, decreased graduation rates, and lower employment rates.

AMENDMENTS

None.