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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
57th Legislature, 1st Session, 2025

Bill Number	<u>SB426</u>	Sponsor	<u>López</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.230744.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SHPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>Repeal Obsolete School Provision</u>		
Analyst	<u>Davalos</u>	Original Date	<u>2/27/2025</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 426 (SB426) would repeal Section 22-14-20 NMSA 1978, an obsolete provision of statute which transferred functions of the New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped to the Blind Administrative Unit of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) of the Public Education Department (PED).

FISCAL IMPACT

SB426 does not contain an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB426 would repeal an outdated section of law related to services for visually impaired students, as the New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped has been renamed, and the administrative structure of the Services for the Blind Administrative Unit of the DVR of PED has changed. PED offers [resources](#) for visually impaired kindergarten through 12th grade students through its Office of Special Education and authorizes blind and visually impaired [licensure](#) for birth through 12th grade under federal guidelines through its Licensure Bureau. Additionally, the [New Mexico DVR](#), still a division of PED, is a state and federally funded program that helps individuals with documented disabilities find suitable employment.

SB426 would repeal [Section 22-14-20 NMSA 1978](#) which is titled “New Mexico school for the visually handicapped; certain functions transferred.” This section explains that the powers, fiscal responsibilities, duties, records, equipment, land, buildings, and personnel of the New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped related to training, rehabilitating, and employing blind individuals over the age of 18 were transferred to the Services for the Blind Administrative Unit within the DVR of PED. This transfer took place in coordination with relevant federal and state agencies.

Although the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Alamogordo was founded in 1903, it has been renamed several times. According to the [State Investment Council \(SIC\)](#), the 35th territorial Legislature approved an act in 1903 that created the New Mexico School for the Blind in Alamogordo. The school was renamed to New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped during the 1953 legislature, and changed once more to its current name, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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