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

Bill Number	<u>SB146</u>	Sponsor	<u>Pope/Sariñana</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.229784.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SHPAC/SJC</u>
Short Title	<u>Educational Opportunity for Military Children</u>		
Analyst	<u>Davalos</u>	Original Date	<u>2/17/2025</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 146 (SB146) would amend Section 11-8B-1 NMSA 1978 to make technical corrections to comply with federal code. The bill would clarify terminology by changing the term “sections” to “chapters” in references to [10 U.S.C. Chapter 1209 \(Active Duty\)](#) and [10 U.S.C. Chapter 1211 \(National Guard Members in Federal Service\)](#) when discussing active duty members.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB146 does not contain an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is a nationwide agreement adopted by all 50 states to support military-connected students facing educational transitions. New Mexico adopted legislation to join the compact in 2010 (see Section 11-8B-1 NMSA 1978). It establishes uniform standards for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) schools to address enrollment, placement, graduation requirements, and extracurricular eligibility challenges. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children reports that on average, military affiliated students will attend six to nine different school systems during their K-12 education. Each state maintains a [state council](#) that serves as an advisory body, ensuring compliance with the compact and facilitating smooth transitions for military families.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Military-Connected Students in New Mexico. Data from the Public Education Department (PED) for the 2022-2023 school year reports 5,225 military-connected students enrolled in public schools across New Mexico. However, the actual number may be higher, as PED masks students’ subgroups with low enrollment for privacy reasons. Additionally, this figure is likely to fluctuate due to the high mobility of military families.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)
- Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority (NMPSIA)
- Regional Education Cooperatives Association (RECA)

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