

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/22/07

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Child Care Needs of Student Parents SJM 37

ANALYST Lucero

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal		Minimal	Non- Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 182; SB 214; SB 676; SB 869; SB 870; SB 871; SB 723; HB 15

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 37 requests that the Children, Youth and Families Department study the met and unmet needs for child care for student parents and report its findings to the welfare reform oversight committee or another appropriate interim legislative committee during the 2007 interim.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SJM 37 is specifically related to child care for student parents and how CYFD can better identify and provide for their met and unmet needs through their child care services (licensing, training, subsidies, etc). The only connection to PED would be if the “student parents” in middle and high school are receiving child care services through a Teen Parent Center or program located on a public school campus that receives funding through PED. Otherwise, SJM 37 has no fiscal or programmatic impact on PED

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial would offer an additional new opportunity to study and recommend ways to improve the availability and accessibility of child care services in New Mexico.

As stated in the regulations governing child care assistance (8.15.2 NMAC), child care benefits are paid for families who are working, attending school or participating in a job training or educational program and who demonstrate a need for care during one or more of these activities and who meet income guidelines. Child care assistance benefits are provided to eligible children for the following types of child care to ensure that parents have a variety of child care services from which to choose:

- child care programs administered by public schools and post-secondary institutions that provide on-site care for the children of students;
- child care programs administered by tribal entities;
- child care programs administered by church or religious organizations;
- in-home care;
- child care in registered family childcare homes;
- child care in licensed family and group childcare homes;
- out of school time programs;
- programs operated by employers for their employees.

Many of the State's high schools and universities already have child care centers available to the students of those schools.

Child care facilities are currently required to maintain a ratio of 1 to 6 for children under two, 1 to 12 for children three to four years, and 1 to 15 for children five to six years.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None identified at this time

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If passed, the memorial will have a slight additional administrative impact on children, youth and families department that the bill does not address.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB 182; SB 214; SB 676; SB 869; SB 870; SB 871; SB 723; HB 15

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not mention what unmet or inadequately met student parent child care needs are.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

All licensed child care facilities must meet the requirements of the child care licensing regulations (8.16.2 NMAC). Included in these regulations is the requirement that staff at child

care centers take the 45-hour entry level course or approved 3-credit early care and education course or an equivalent approved by the department within six months of employment. All staff members working directly with children and more than 20 hours per week, including the director, must have at least twenty-four (24) hours of training each year.

A child care provider may choose to participate in the Aim High program to receive help in meeting and maintaining requirements for Star levels 2 through 5 of the Department's quality rating system. Child care providers receive higher reimbursement rates for meeting these requirements. Currently, 46% of the State's 994 licensed child care homes and centers have 2, 3, 4 and 5 Star licenses. Licensing surveyors for the Child Care Services Bureau conduct a survey at least once a year in each child care facility and follow-up visits as needed. Licensed facilities are required to post their most recent licensing survey.

DL/csd