

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 02/27/09

SPONSOR Chavez, Eleanor LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HM 58

SHORT TITLE Breastfeeding Student Mother Needs SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Chabot

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$0.1		\$0.1	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)  
 Higher Education Department (HED)  
 Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 58 resolves the Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) convene a task force to assess the level of support that New Mexico's student mothers and make recommendations for improving the breastfeeding initiation and duration rates. It further resolves WHAC collaborate with DOH, HED, PED, CYFD, and HPC, La Leche League of New Mexico and any other agencies or organizations having insight and expertise on this issue. WHAC is to report to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by December 1, 2009.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be some costs in convening the task force, and preparing and distribution the report. Since no agency reported any costs, these will be paid out of agency operating budgets.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

CSW and DOH presented substantial information of the breastfeed improving student productivity, benefits of breastfeeding and the current University of New Mexico (UNM) Breastfeeding Program. Several studies referenced concluded increased productivity, improved study concentration, decreased fatigue, and improved morale. However, the US Breastfeeding committee points out working conditions and classroom environments discourage mothers from breastfeeding. It recommends enacting or amending laws to offer greater support for breastfeeding such as extended break time and a dedicated room for privacy.

Some of the benefits of breastfeeding are fewer infant illnesses, decreased severity of illnesses and a reduction in health costs. Breastfeeding is recommended for the year after birth but rates in New Mexico dramatically by 8 weeks (46.6 percent are breastfeeding) to 26.7 percent at one year.

HPC reports the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends infants be exclusively breastfed for the first six months and continued through the first year.

DOH has a Women Infant Children Program Breastfeeding Promotion Manager who routinely collaborates with agencies and organizations to assess community breastfeeding programs. The agency would participate in the task force and costs would be incorporated into existing program infrastructure.

HED reports on the UNM Breastfeeding Support Program which includes lactation rooms on campus, some equipped with hospital-grade pumps, links to lactation resources, and facilitates communication between current, past and future breastfeeding mothers.

PED states it will participate by using existing staff.

GAC/mt