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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>SM56</u>	Sponsor	<u>Campos</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.206665.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SRC/SEC</u>
Short Title	<u>School Transportation Funds & Bus Replacement</u>		
Analyst	<u>Herz</u>	Original Date	<u>2/10/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 56 (SM56) requests that the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, and the Legislature consider student safety concerns in addition to financial impact to inform consideration of a proposed change to the school bus replacement schedule.

FISCAL IMPACT

Memorials do not appropriate funds.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SM56 was introduced in response to House Bill 47 (HB47) which would increase the school bus replacement cycle from 12 to 15 years. According to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), the bill would delay the scheduled replacement of 204 buses at an estimated cost of \$17.3 million in FY17 and FY18 by two years. While it is likely that older buses would require additional maintenance, the associated cost increase cannot be accurately projected.

SM56 raises concerns about student safety if the school bus replacement cycle were to be extended. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), between 2005 and 2014, 106 bus drivers and students died in accidents while riding in school buses. During that time, no students were fatally injured in New Mexico. It is unclear whether extending the school bus replacement schedule would impact student safety.

Currently, the Public Education Department (PED) requires school districts to conduct safety inspections for all school buses twice a year in addition to daily inspections by school bus drivers. School buses that fail inspections must be removed from service until the reason for the failed inspection has been repaired and tested. Currently, results from school bus safety inspections are not made public by PED.

RELATED BILLS

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Related to HB47, Extend School Bus Replacement Cycle

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- NHTSA

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