

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website (www.nmlegis.gov). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number HB490 **Sponsor** Ruiloba
Tracking Number .213237.1 **Committee Referrals** HEC/HJC
Short Title School Training for Law Enforcement
Analyst Stiles **Original Date** 2/11/19
Last Updated _____

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 490 (HB490) would require the New Mexico law enforcement academy board to develop and implement a planned program of initial and in-service training for certified and commissioned law enforcement officers that is specific to best practices for law enforcement and school interactions. The bill would also require the board to prescribe qualifications for instructors and courses of instruction for such trainings.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB490 does not contain an appropriation.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) anticipates initial training, development, and implementation would require a one-time appropriation of \$320 thousand, and DPS notes it would require funding every four years in the amount of approximately \$125 thousand for instructor training and curriculum maintenance.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB490 would amend the Law Enforcement Training Act to require the New Mexico law enforcement academy board to develop and implement initial and in-service training specific to best practices for law enforcement and school interactions for certified and commissioned law enforcement officers employed by the New Mexico state police division of DPS, municipal police departments, and county sheriff officers. The board would be required to collaborate with the Public Education Department and the law enforcement academy to design the training. The training would be required to include the special needs and circumstances of working in a school environment; threat response, crisis management and de-escalation techniques; school safety, emergency planning, and strategies for securing a school campus; and other topics required by the board.

HB490 would require all certified and commissioned law enforcement officers to receive basic training appropriate for officers working in a school, regardless of whether the officer is assigned to work in a school. This may be valuable in the case of the officer having to respond to a school or to a situation involving school students. The office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) of the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) recommend trainings for officers who will work in a school setting such as instruction on the differences between law enforcement when conducted inside a school environment including de-escalation techniques, instruction designed to provide tools to be a positive role model for youth, and instruction on developing a partnership with schools. NASRO's recommendations are consistent with the requirements of HB490. NASRO and COPS make additional recommendations for officers who will work as school resource officers.

HB490 would require the New Mexico law enforcement academy board to prescribe qualifications for instructors and courses of instruction for initial and in-service training for certified and commissioned law enforcement officers employed by the New Mexico state police division, municipal police departments and county sheriff offices that is specific for law enforcement and school interactions.

DPS notes, if HB490 is enacted, it will add between three and four days to the basic training academy at the New Mexico law enforcement academy and at the nine regional satellite basic training academies.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to DPS, if HB490 is enacted, the New Mexico law enforcement academy board of directors would be required to amend its rules as articulated with the New Mexico Administrative Code. DPS notes once the standards were developed through the job task analysis, a rule change would take about six months to complete in compliance with the State Rules Act.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DPS notes, page one, lines 12 through 14; page two, lines eight through 10; and page three, lines six through seven, should be simplified to read "requiring all commissioned and certified law enforcement officers," because there are a number of law enforcement agencies not included in HB490 that DPS believes should be included.

RELATED BILLS

HB330 would require municipal police officers, county sheriff's officers, and school district law enforcement officers that are hired as public school resource officers to receive training specific for working in schools prior to assuming any job duties.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Department of Public Safety (DPS)

AMS/mc