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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Ferrary/Trujillo C.      **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/29/2020  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_      **HB** 70  
**SHORT TITLE** Friendships Between Certain Students      **SB** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ANALYST** Gaussoin

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 532 from the 2019 legislative session

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 70 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department to enhance programs in middle schools and high school directed at fostering one-to-one friendships between students with and without intellectual and development disabilities and promote inclusion in school environments.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

PED reports its Special Education Bureau has a set-aside from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Part B (IDEA-B) funds to promote relationships between students with and without disabilities. Annually, PED has set aside \$100 thousand, using IDEA funds, for Best Buddies, a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HB70 would likely create additional administrative responsibilities for PED, school districts, and schools. These responsibilities likely could be absorbed by existing staff.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

PED reports IDEA-B emphasizes inclusion by requiring local education agencies provide a free and appropriate education to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the least restrictive environment, an approach found to help the academic and social development of these students when implemented with fidelity. However, in analysis of House Bill 532 from the 2019 legislative session, PED noted fostering one-on-one relationships is not an evidence-based practice.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Any grants from these funds should involve performance measures.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

While PED already administers an agreement with Best Buddies, an expansion of funding for similar programs would involve greater administrative involvement.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Except for the appropriation amount, HB70 duplicates HB532 from the 2019 legislative session. HB532 would have appropriated \$150 thousand but died through inaction.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

HB70 does not define “friendship,” leaving this goals of the legislation open to interpretation.

HG/sb