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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/2020

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Expand School Food Programs SB 252

ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bills 10, 75, and 315, House Memorial 6, Senate Bill 10, and Senate Memorials 3 and 10.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response Received

Department of Health (DOH)
 Public Education Department (PED)
 Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)
 Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 252 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department to expand food school programs to provide meals with local ingredients to low-income families during nonschool hours.

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 \$100 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.

The Children, Youth and Families Department and Public Education Department operate a summer program that provides free meals to any child ages 1 to 18. The programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which targets low-income areas.

SB252 does not define nonschool hours and it is possible PED would need to set up a separate program if the intent is nonschool hours during the school year, which falls outside the USDA summer meals program. That would entail the creation of a new program with application and allocation processes, likely to represent a cost to the department.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In New Mexico, 26 percent of children under age 18 are food insecure and 70 percent of students receive free or reduced lunch at school through the National School Lunch Program. Free meals available from a local school could alleviate some food insecurity.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED did not provide analysis for this report. It is possible SB252, if enacted, would require the creation of a new program in the department.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB10 would appropriate \$650 thousand to eliminate copays for children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

HB75 would appropriate \$200 thousand in FY21 from the general fund to the Human Services Department to convene a task force to conduct a study and an assessment of hunger, malnutrition, and food production and distribution in New Mexico, and to contract for services necessary to the work of the task force.

HB315 would create a program for awarding grants to certain schools that would provide free meals to all the students in the school.

House Memorial 6 requests the secretary of the Human Services Department (HSD) to convene a task force to study and assess hunger, malnutrition, food production and distribution; assess existing data; and identify the state's barriers to ensuring that all New Mexicans have access to a nutritious and sufficient diet.

SB10 requires schools to require parents or guardians to complete an application for the free and reduced-price lunch program during registration.

SM3 requests the New Mexico Department of Agriculture convene a work group to study how to best coordinate with farmers to glean unharvested produce to help alleviate food insecurity.

SM10 requests the Public Education Department to convene a working group to study repackaging school meals for donation to students.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In analysis on Senate Memorial 10, which creates a working group to study repackaging school meals for donation to students, NMED reports it is currently working with the Albuquerque Public Schools and PED on an initiative, part of a nationwide effort coordinated through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, called “the share table,” in which children who don’t finish their meals can leave untouched food on a table, making it available to students who want additional servings. The leftovers can also be used in an after-school program or donated to a food bank, homeless shelter, or other nonprofit. USDA “share table” guidance allows for donations off the school campus but not necessarily to students. A nonprofit could act as the conduit. NMED has met with representatives from APS and has developed proposed standard guidelines relating to food safety.

HFG/rl