

LFC Requestor: Self Assigned

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 58

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 01-22-25

Sponsor(s): Pamela Herndon

Short Title: Mental Health Programs in Schools Funding

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$300	Nonrecurring	SGF
\$0	\$1,750	Nonrecurring	SGF

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

House bill 58 (HB58) would appropriate three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the Public Education Department (NMPED) to partner with an organization that provides trauma-informed and culture-centered suicide prevention training to school staff, students, and community members; it would also appropriate one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,750,000) to support the operation of fourteen mental health rooms in schools across the state.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

Suicidal behaviors are a serious public health problem and a major cause of morbidity and mortality in New Mexico. In 2018, suicide was the ninth leading cause of death in NM, the second leading cause of death by age group for persons 5-34 years of age, and the fourth leading cause of death by age group for persons 35-44 years of age. Suicide accounted for 15,048 Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL), fourth after unintentional injuries, cancer, and heart disease deaths. The YPLL is a measure of premature mortality in a population that describes the impact of injury-related deaths on a society compared to other causes of death.

Suicide deaths have been increasing in both New Mexico and the United States, with suicide death rates in NM at least 50% higher than U.S. rates over the past 20 years. Mental disorders, particularly clinical depression, increase the risk for both attempted suicide and suicide. Other risk factors associated with suicide include a previous suicide attempt, alcohol and substance abuse, a family history of suicide, a history of child maltreatment, feelings of hopelessness, isolation, barriers to mental health treatment, loss (of relationships, social connections, work, finances), physical illness, and easy access to lethal methods, such as firearms ([NM-IBIS - Summary Health Indicator Report - Suicide Death](#)).

A wellness room is a space where students can go when they feel overwhelmed, anxious, or unable to regulate their emotions. It includes different sensory activities students can partake in to refocus their attention before they return to the classroom. Research has shown ([The Impact of a Classroom Calm Down Corner in a Primary Classroom](#)) that offering students access to wellness rooms can help them regulate emotions and stress. This can make them more attentive and active participants in the classroom and improve their chances of achieving academic success ([What are wellness rooms, and why do schools need them?](#))

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?
 Yes No
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No
 - Goal 1:** We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans
 - Goal 2:** We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments
 - Goal 3:** We improve health status for all New Mexicans
 - Goal 4:** We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?

Yes No

- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

While this bill will have an impact on all children where there is a mental health room, children with special needs and in special education may particularly benefit from this bill.

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

The practice of providing calming spaces in schools is aligned with several currently used frameworks in education that have been shown to benefit student wellness, including Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support, Whole School Whole Child, Restorative Practices, and Trauma Informed Practices. ([Calming Spaces in Schools and Classrooms – California Safe and Supportive Schools](#)).

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If HB58 is not passed, an appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the NMPED to partner with an organization that provides trauma-informed and culture-centered suicide prevention training to school staff, students and community members and one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,750,000) to support the operation of fourteen mental health rooms in schools across the state would not occur.

12. AMENDMENTS

None