

LFC Requester:

Kelly Klundt

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 2/5/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 252 Original X Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Kristina Ortez Rep. Susan K. Herrera,
Rep. Michelle Paulene
Abeyta, Speaker Javier
Martinez, Rep. D.
Wonda Johnson, Rep.
Agency Name and Code
Number: Early Childhood Education & Care
Person Writing Analysis: Elizabeth Groginsky
Short Title: Kinship Caregiver Support Pilot Program **Phone:** 505-231-2997 **Email:** Elizabeth.groginsky@ecd.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

HB 252 adds a new section to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department Act to create a three-year kinship caregiver support pilot program. The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) would receive \$4,500,000 from the general fund to administer the pilot program during FY2026 through FY2028. The program would be implemented in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Taos, McKinley, and Dona Ana counties, serving 50 kinship caregivers in each of these counties. Participants in the program would be referred to community organizations, non-profits, or area foundations to receive monthly economic support, along with referrals to other programs that may be beneficial to them and the children they care for.

ALTSD would be required to collaborate with community organizations, nonprofits, or area foundations to develop eligibility criteria, establish the necessary processes for administering the pilot, and identifying local resources such as legal representation, public assistance, and economic support services. ALTSD must also explore potential additional funding sources, including federal funds.

HB252 requires ALTSD to develop a budget that accounts for staff salaries, legal assistance to assist participants in obtaining legal custody or kinship guardianship of a child, and any other costs necessary for the administration of the pilot program. In addition, ALTSD would be required to collaborate and receive technical assistance from the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), other state agencies, and appropriate community organizations to receive technical assistance.

HB252 requires ALTSD to create rules for the pilot program by June 1, 2025. Additionally, by December 1, 2025, and each subsequent year, ALTSD would be required to submit a report to the Legislative Finance Committee assessing the program’s outcomes and providing recommendations. In preparing this report, ALTSD must consult with ECECD. The act would take effect immediately, as it is deemed necessary for the public peace, health, and safety.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 252 aims at improving the lives of children being cared for by pilot “participants” by referring them to monthly economic support programs. It is important to note that pilot participant eligibility might include kinship caregivers who do not have legal guardianship for the child(ren), but who may need Child Care Assistance.

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB 252 would require ALTSD to receive technical assistance from ECECD, and to consult with ECECD on an annual report to the Legislative Finance Committee. The specifics of what this technical assistance and consultation would involve are unclear, making it difficult to determine the amount of staff time that would be required to support this work.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The pilot program providing monthly economic support and resource coordination for kinship caregivers would not be implemented in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Taos, McKinley and Dona Ana counties.

AMENDMENTS