

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

(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

Senate Bill (SB491) amends 21-22F NMSA 1978, the Public Service Law Loan Repayment Act (LRAP) by expanding the definition to "participating attorney" and adds additional appointments under the public service law advisory committee members, identify additional appointed committees.

Senate Bill (SB491) creates a new section 21-22J-1 NMSA 1978 the Child and Family Welfare Worker Loan Repayment Act.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB491 makes no appropriation as it relates to NMHED.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB491 provides amendments to 21-22F Public Service Law Loan Repayment Program Act, Section 1 (4) expands the definition of "public service law advisory committee" to include the office of Family Representation and Advocacy as eligible employment.

SB491 expands the definition of "public service employment" to add attorneys who are providing service at the office of family representation and advocacy. SB491 makes several non-substantive amendments to correct outdated references within the statutes as it relates to NMHED.

The purpose of LRAP is to improve access to the justice system in New Mexico by increasing the number of attorneys in public service employment through a legal education loan repayment program. In FY25, NMHED awarded 7 new awards to attorneys working in public service.

The current maximum credit for a year shall not exceed seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200). NMHED receives a General Fund appropriation of one hundred and forty-four dollars (\$144,000) each fiscal year.

LRAP participants are required to work in public service with an organization that is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code and that provides for the care and maintenance of indigent persons in New Mexico through civil legal services. The public defender department or New Mexico District Attorney's Office.

In addition, SB491 established a new section for a Child and Family Welfare Worker Loan Repayment Act to provide loan repayment to applicants who work in public service under the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA). OFRA serves children, parents, custodians, and guardians whose children are, or are at risk of, being placed in the legal custody of the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD). OFRA also serves eligible adults under the Fostering Connections Act. OFRA was established in statute in 2022, Section 32A-27-1 through 32A-27-13, NMSA 1978.

Applicants must complete a bachelor's or master's degree in a critical field of work directly with the Children and Family Interdisciplinary Services Division Office. The highest priority shall be given to public service workers who work in geographic areas or divisions positions where vacancies are difficult to fill. The award for each public service worker shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

Applicants must have successfully completed at least one year of service with the office as a public service worker. NMHED will enter into a contract with the recipient acting on behalf of the state.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMHED's Financial Aid Division administers regulations promulgated pursuant to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP) in 5.7.3 NMAC and the Public Service Law Loan Repayment Program (LRAP) 5.7.31 NMAC.

SB4491 directs NMHED to promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of the Public Service Worker Loan Repayment Act. The administrative code would clarify details such as the structure of the selection communities to review applicants, areas or need and location.

In addition, NMHED will be required to provide annual reports to the Governor and the legislature prior to each regular legislative session of the actives including cohort data and annual program data.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMHED will not be able to carry out the enactment of the proposed legislation without an appropriation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A