

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

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(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: 2/20/2025

Bill Number: SM9

Sponsor: Pinto

Short Title: Continue and Improve 520 Language

Agency Name and Code Number: NM Indian Affairs Dept 60900

Person Writing: Amanda Nezzie

Phone: 505-699-3354

Email: amanda.nezzie@iad.nm.gov

Section II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
Unknown	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

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(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:

SM9 requests the Legislative Education Study Committee to convene a working group to review and recommend improvements to the 520 Native American Language and Culture Certification Program. The memorial recognizes the role of Native American language instruction in education and cultural preservation and notes challenges related to certification processes, career advancement, salary structures, and program integration within bilingual and multicultural education systems.

The working group would include representatives from the Public Education Department's Indian Education Division and Licensure Bureau, which oversee Indian Education initiatives and teacher certification processes. It would also involve schools specializing in Native American language and cultural education with language programs. Additionally, organizations involved in teacher certification, including those supporting 520 certification, bilingual teacher certification, and professional development for Native American language instructors, would contribute to the working group. Higher education institutions offering programs related to Native American language instruction, teacher training, or bilingual education would also be included. Other potential stakeholders, such as tribal education departments, language preservation groups, and community organizations engaged in Native American language revitalization efforts, may be involved as well.

The memorial requests that the working group report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Education Study Committee by October 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no appropriations in this bill; as a result, there is no fiscal impact to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill imposes an excessive administrative burden on state agencies by requiring extensive reporting to the Legislature. Compliance with these requirements would divert limited staff time and resources away from core responsibilities, including supporting school districts, implementing education programs, and ensuring compliance with state and federal education standards. Furthermore, by mandating direct agency reporting to the legislative branch, the bill appears to circumvent established executive authority and oversight processes, disrupting the balance

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between the branches of government.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

IAD defers to PED for any administrative implications with this bill as IAD is not specifically named in the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

This bill appears to place a significant burden on PED, diverting valuable time and resources from the essential tasks it is already mandated to carry out under existing statutes.

AMENDMENTS