

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Chilton</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2021 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

[LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV](mailto:LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV)

*and*

[DFA@STATE.NM.US](mailto:DFA@STATE.NM.US)

*{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

Check all that apply:  
**Original**     **Amendment**      
**Correction**     **Substitute**   

**Date** 2/12/2021  
**Bill No:** SB271

**Sponsor:** Harold Pope, Jr.  
Siah Hemphill  
**Short Title:** PURPLE STAR PUBLIC  
SCHOOL PROGRAM

**Agency Name and Code**                       
**Number:** PED-924  
**Person Writing**                       
**Phone:** 505-570-7816 **Email** John Sena  
John.Sena@state.nm.us

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22	FY23		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	NFI	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	Indeterminate

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: No

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 271 (SB271) would amend the Public School Code to require the Public Education Department to develop a Purple Star Public School Program as a way for schools to ease the transition of students of military families to new schools, or for schools not near a military installation, to recognize and celebrate military service. SB271 provides procedures for schools to apply to participate.

SB271 would require the Public Education Department (PED) to establish the parameters in which public schools with students from active-duty military families may apply to become a Purple Star Public School by:

- designating a school staff member as point of contact for the students and their families and the military;
- providing professional development for point-of-contact staff;
- including a page on its website that features resources and information for military families;
- describing academic, social and emotional supports available to assist transitioning military family students; and
- submitting a resolution to the local board supporting military students and the school’s application to become a Purple Star Public School.

Public schools that do not have students from active-duty military families may apply to PED to be a Purple Star Public School by:

- emphasizing the importance and honor of military service;
- recognizing service to the country and accomplishments of veterans, active-duty and reserve military and National Guard in their communities;
- celebrating students who have committed to serving in the military; and
- submitting a resolution to the local board supporting students of military families and the school’s application to be a Purple Star Public School.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Minimal costs may be associated with program development at the local educational agency (LEA) level. The PED may incur costs not provided for in the proposed bill. The department would be required to oversee and manage all LEA designees, host electronic program information, and publish materials and information online. Funds from existing divisions or

programs may need to be leveraged and applied without an appropriation.

This bill does not contain an appropriation.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to [Alamogordo Public Schools](#), the Purple Star School program was started in Ohio in 2016 to help military families as they experience permanent change of status (PCS) from base to base. Historically, Purple Star Schools are attentive to military students transitioning to their new school, especially when it is a mid-year PCS. Purple Star Schools, typically, have staff who are trained to help students deal with frequent moves and parent deployments. Additionally, ten states now have the Purple Star School Program: Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, North Dakota, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Arkansas. Should SB271 be passed, New Mexico would become the eleventh state to have a statewide Purple Start School Program.

Currently, there are over one million Americans serving in the Armed Services. Over [5,000 military dependents live in New Mexico with 1,062 military dependents](#) enrolled in Alamogordo Public Schools. Purple Star Schools are military friendly campuses that are dedicated to helping military students gain education skills important to make them life, work, and college-ready. Purple Star Schools support a military student's social and emotional well-being as they transition to a new school and all aspects of military life.

SB271 calls for a statewide process by which school districts can begin Purple Star Programs. However, according to Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), a group that advocates for the creation of Purple Star schools, schools districts can implement the program without a statewide process. The MCEC can provide guidance on establishing, implementing, and promoting a Purple Star School program.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

N/A.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Oversight of the Purple Star Schools Program may require additional funding and staff assignment/restructuring of the PED.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

N/A

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

SB271 may require school boards or governance boards to adopt a resolution stating that military families matter in their respective district, prior to submitting an application to the PED. Additionally, public schools would be required to provide professional development for staff to educate their community on military life. Designated school staff responsibilities cannot be assigned to the School Liaison Officer associated with the neighboring base.

It is unclear which division or bureau at the PED would be responsible for the application, implementation, and oversight of the Purple Star Schools Program.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The State of New Mexico partakes in the Military Interstate Compact that focuses on supporting the equitable transition of students of military families into New Mexico schools.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

### **AMENDMENTS**

None as of 2/12/2021.