

LFC Requester:	Helms
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 02/09/23
Bill No: SB325

Sponsor: Soules
Short Title: SCHOOL COUNSELOR TEACHER LOAN

Agency Name and Code
Number: PED - 924
Person Writing Gregory Frostad
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	N/A	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 325 (SB325) would expand the [Teacher Loan Repayment Act](#) to include social workers and school counselors who work in a public school. To be eligible, school counselors would be required to have provided at least three years of counseling services and social workers would be required to have provided at least three years of social work services.

Priority would be given to school counselors or social workers working in high-need areas in the state.

The bill would repeal [Section 21-22H-2 NMSA 1978](#), which provides the purpose of the Teacher Loan Repayment Act.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill defines:

- “school counselor” as a counselor who has been licensed by the state and is currently employed at a public school to provide counseling services to public school students.
- “social worker” as a social worker who has been licensed by the state and is currently employed at a public school to provide social work services to public school students.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

[Section 22-10A-2 NMSA 1978](#) defines “instructional support provider” as a person who is employed to support the instructional program of a public school, including educational assistant, school counselor, social worker, school nurse, speech-language pathologist, psychologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, recreational therapist, marriage and family therapist, interpreter for the deaf and diagnostician.

Per [6.63.6 NMAC, Licensure for School Counselors, Pre K-12](#), persons seeking licensure in school counseling are required to:

- have earned a national certified school counselor credential issued by the national board for certified counselors;
- be a licensed professional mental health counselor (LPC) or licensed professional clinical mental health counselor (LPCC) credential issued by the New Mexico counseling and therapy practice board and a minimum of six semester hours of graduate credit in school counseling coursework; or
- have a master’s degree from an accredited college or university comprising competencies or a program approved by the Public Education Department (PED).

A candidate is required to pass the content knowledge assessment for school counselors.

Per [6.63.7 NMAC, Licensure for School Social Workers, Pre K-12](#), persons seeking level 1 licensure in school social work are required to:

- have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university comprising competencies or a program approved by PED; and
- have a valid social work license issued by the New Mexico social work examiners board.

Persons seeking level 2 licensure in school social work are required to:

- have met the level 1 licensure requirements for school social work;
- have verification they have demonstrated entry level social work competencies approved by PED; and
- have a valid social valid social work license issued by the New Mexico social work examiners board.

Persons seeking level 3 licensure in school social work are required to:

- have met the level 2 licensure requirements for school social work;
- have verification they have demonstrated the independent social worker competencies approved by PED;
- have a master's degree in social work from an accredited college or university;
- have a valid independent social worker license issued by the New Mexico Board of Social Work Examiners with specializations in clinical social work or school social work; and
- have evidence of 875 hours of supervised experience in providing therapeutic services to children, including children with severe emotional disturbances and behavioral disorders, in the school setting.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A