



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/31 /25

Bill No: SB102

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

**Sponsor:** Soules

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**Short Title:** STUDY UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME & PREGNANT

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$80,000.0	None	N/A	GF

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

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

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 102 (SB102) proposes the Department of Health conduct a two-year “universal basic income pilot program” beginning July 1, 2025, to evaluate the financial impact on a pregnant person provided with a basic income from pregnancy through the infant’s first year of life.

The bill is endorsed by the Legislative Education Study Committee.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill would appropriate \$80 million from the general fund to the Department of Health to conduct a universal basic income pilot program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 would revert to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

More than 50 years ago, the federal government recognized the effects of poverty on student learning and established the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to combat the educational effects of poverty. The cost of the ESEA and other educational interventions that address the effects of poverty is significant. Reducing poverty through the provisions of SB102 may be more cost effective than providing educational interventions to address the effects of poverty.

Universal basic income (UBI) is an intervention that could reduce poverty and improve educational outcomes for students. Many variants of UBI have been piloted [with evidence](#) that UBI positively affects educational outcomes. UBI also improves health and wellbeing and reduces the societal costs of poverty. Implementing UBI could reduce the state’s costs for education, public safety and health care in the long term.

Reducing poverty reduces the number of adverse childhood events which cause toxic stress, affect brain development and learning, and can lead to other health problems including depression, asthma, heart disease, and obesity. The [New Mexico Children’s Cabinet](#) reports that 27.3 percent of students in the state have experienced more than two adverse childhood events compared to 17.4 percent of children nationwide.

The Public School Code currently contains several provisions designed to assist pregnant or parenting students:

- In the Attendance for Success Act:
  - Section 22-12A-6 NMSA 1978 requires a student or their parent who intends to claim an excused absence due to pregnancy or parenting status to inform their status, with appropriate documentation, to the appropriate school authorities.
  - Section 22-12A-9 NMSA 1978 requires school districts to maintain attendance policies that provide four days of excused absences for students claiming pregnant or parenting status, and to give the student time to make up their missed schoolwork. That section also requires alternative schools for pregnant or parenting students to not count such a student as absent as long as they are online

with the school or other appropriate virtual course, and they complete their assignments.

- Section 22-13-3.1 NMSA 1978 creates the Even Start Family Literacy Program to provide funding for preschool readiness and parenting education.
- Section 22-10A-2 NMSA 1978, the definitions section of the School Personnel Act, defines "ethical misconduct" to include discriminatory conduct based on pregnancy status.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The monthly basic income of \$1,500 may lead to better prenatal care, nutrition, and early childhood education, which would better prepare students for entering school. The pilot program would include a treatment and control group as part of an experimental study that has the potential to inform future policy regarding the benefits that receiving a universal basic income may have on educational outcomes.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None for the Public Education Department.

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

Relates to House Bill 56, Medicaid Reimbursement for Birth Centers, which proposes to require the Health Care authority to ensure that Medicaid reimbursement for services provided at birth centers are the same as those provided at hospitals.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.