



LFC Requester: Hanika-Ortiz

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

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/30 /25
Bill No: SB148

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Maestas/Hernandez

PED Lead Analyst: Evan Chavez

Phone: (505) 470-5303 **Email:** evan.chavez@ped.nm.gov

Short Title: ANTI-HAZING ACT

PED Policy Director: Denise Terrazas

Phone: (505) 470-5303 **Email:** denise.terrazas@ped.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	N/A	NFA

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
Total	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 148 (SB148) would create the Anti-Hazing Act and establish new legal definitions and penalties related to hazing in educational institutions, including public schools.

Under SB148, hazing consists of an intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a student or prospective student, whether individually or in concert with other students or prospective students, at a public school, private school, or public or private post-secondary educational institution, against another student or prospective student.

The bill categorizes hazing into several different levels of offenses.

- Whoever commits hazing is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Whoever commits hazing that results in physical harm or great psychological harm to a student or prospective student is guilty of a fourth degree felony.
- Whoever commits hazing that results in great physical harm is guilty of a third degree felony.
- Whoever commits hazing that results in death is guilty of a second degree felony.

It is not a defense to hazing if either of the following applies:

- the victim or person against whom the hazing was directed acquiesced or consented, whether implied or expressed, to the conduct; or
- the conduct was sanctioned or approved by the student organization or the public school, private school or public or private post-secondary educational institution.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico is one of six states, and the only state in the southwest, without anti-hazing laws. Hazing happens in many diverse settings, including middle and high schools, colleges and universities, the military, and workplaces. According to StopHazing, [47 percent of students nationwide](#) are hazed before they enter college and 55 percent of college students involved in clubs and sports experience hazing. Hazing can threaten the health and safety of its victims by impacting educational goals, suppressing a sense of belonging, and discouraging inclusion.

In the aftermath of New Mexico State University's hazing incidents in 2022-2023, the DOJ identified [seven focal points](#) with recommendations that would improve the safety of students. The highest priority recommendations were to develop written guidelines for reporting incidents of hazing and sexual violence, employing consistent disciplinary measures, prioritizing awareness efforts, and creating a resource center for sexual violence education and prevention.

SB148 establishes the crime of failing to report hazing as a misdemeanor and includes school personnel such as administrators, faculty members, coaches, employees, and independent contractors.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are consequences for individuals, including students, involved in hazing activities that would lead to, at best, poor academic outcomes or, at worst, life-threatening circumstances.

For individuals being hazed, [one study](#) showed that 71 percent suffered from negative consequences, including:

- Physical, emotional, or mental instability
- Sleep deprivation
- Loss of sense of control and empowerment
- Decline in grades and coursework
- Relationships with friends, significant others, and family suffer
- Post-traumatic stress syndrome
- Loss of respect for and interest in being part of the organization
- Erosion of trust within the group members
- Illness or hospitalization with additional effects on family and friends

For individuals doing the hazing, they may face:

- Legal actions up to and including jail time and fines
- School or university action, such as suspension or expulsion
- Membership and organizational sanctions
- Declines in grades and coursework
- Media scrutiny
- Damage to reputation

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None for PED. The Department of Justice and the district attorney in the county of jurisdiction would enforce the provisions of the Anti-Hazing Act.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to [Senate Bill 10, which also proposes an Anti-Hazing Act](#), though SB10 focuses on public and private postsecondary schools, and does not include the public schools, as does SB148.

Relates to [Senate Bill 149, Crime of Cyberbullying](#), which would create that crime with a focus on public and private schools, but not on postsecondary schools.

Relates to [Senate Bill 238, Youth Behavioral Health Prevention Project](#), which proposes an appropriation of \$1.45 million to the Public Education Department for multicomponent digital platform for the project.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

See Performance Implications.

AMENDMENTS

None.