



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: 02/21 /25

Bill No: HB473

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Brown

PED Lead Analyst: Duncan Christensen

Phone: (505) 470-5303 **Email:** duncan.christensen@ped.nm.gov

Short Title: SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL

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	None	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: House Bill 473 (HB473) would amend the [School Personnel Act](#) to include assistant school security personnel, defined as level one or level two security guards under the [Private Investigations Act](#) but not authorized to carry a firearm. The bill also proposes to update the guidelines for employment of these individuals. It would also include retired or former commissioned *peace officers* – as opposed to law enforcement officers, which are already included – and level three security guards as school security personnel who are allowed to carry a firearm.

HB473 would also amend the Private Investigations Act to include employment at school districts or charter schools as a qualifying type of employment for the issuance of registration as a level one, two, or three security guard respectively.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The School Personnel Act defines “school security professional” as retired or former certified and commissioned law enforcement officers who are employed by a school district and authorized by department rules and local school board policy to carry a firearm on school premises. Nationally, [data](#) from the National Center for Education Statistics shows there has been a significant increase in the percentage of schools that have security personnel on-site at least once a week, with 60.6 percent of schools reporting this to be the case in the 2021-2022 school year, up from 41.7 percent in 2005-2006. The provisions of HB473 may increase the number of school security personnel of all levels present in schools.

According to the [K-12 School Shooting Database](#) there have been 25 shooting incidents impacting New Mexico schools since 1971. In both national trends and within New Mexico, fewer students are reporting bringing weapons to school. In 2021, the national rate was 3.1 while New Mexico’s was 4.2 percent, according to a June 2024 school safety report from the Legislative Education Study Committee.

Data on the effects of increasing school security measures is mixed. One [2015 study](#) using data from two large national surveys found that increased visible security measures, i.e., security cameras, metal detectors, and security personnel had little impact on academic outcomes with some of the heavier surveillance measures trending toward negative effects. Alternatively, [another 2015 study](#) from the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* found that police officers’ regular presence at schools increases the likelihood that students are referred to law enforcement for low-level offenses. However, a [2023 article from Criminology and Public Policy](#) found that, in contrast to police officers, alternative security professionals such as security guards were less likely to refer students to law enforcement for minor infractions.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Monitoring licensure status, firearms qualifications and ongoing requirements for each of the professional roles will require coordination across multiple agencies and organizations.

The Public Education Department (PED) would need to amend its Rule 6.12.12 NMAC, Armed Public School Security Personnel to conform to the provisions of the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

- House Bill 485, School Marshall Act, which proposes the School Marshalls Act to provide greater presence of armed school security on campus.
- Senate Bill 134, Firearm Detection Software Fund, which proposes grants for school districts and charter schools to contract for firearm detection software.
- [Senate Bill 256, School Teachers On-Site Protection Act](#), which proposes requiring that the Department of Public Safety conduct school employee firearm training to allow school employees to be licensed and appointed to carry handguns on school premises.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Private Investigations Act, 61-27B-1 NMSA 1978, et seq., is scheduled for delayed repeal, effective as of Fiscal Year 2031. At that time, all cross-references to the Act will be defunct, and references to the act within the School Personnel Act should be amended prior to that repeal.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

School safety is consistently a primary concern of New Mexico public school educators and administrators and often the highest priority to community constituents, parents, and the students themselves. Various measures are taken regularly by agencies to ensure safety and security in New Mexico's public schools:

- The PED regularly issues school safety guidance to school districts and provides schools with a template and resources to develop school and district safety plans.
- The PED offers technical assistance in school safety plan development, reviews all state school plans every three years (approximately 300 plans per year), and evaluates the plans in the areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.
- The New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority also regularly conducts safety audits and security and vulnerability assessments of public school facilities as part of its loss prevention measures.
- The Public School Facilities Authority has administered and overseen previous appropriations for school safety and security to the Public School Capital Outlay Fund.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.