



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: SB494

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

**Sponsor:** Chavez

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**Short Title:** RURAL SCHOOL  
DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$150,000	None	Nonrecurring	GROP

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

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

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

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 494 proposes an appropriation of \$150,000 to PED to contract with a national organization that publishes official guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency cardiovascular care to train educational personnel in rural school districts to use defibrillators in a cardiac emergency.

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 would appropriate \$150,000 from the government results and opportunity program fund to the PED for expenditure in FY26 to contract with a national organization that publishes official guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiovascular care to train education personnel in rural school districts to use defibrillators in a cardiac emergency. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the government results and opportunity program fund.

The average AED training and certification costs \$100 per person or more.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Most AEDs cost between \$1,200 - \$3,000. Additional maintenance costs would be incurred in the future.

There are 18 states in the U.S. that currently require schools to have an AED, with an additional five more recommending their use. In 1999, the New Mexico Legislature enacted the [Cardiac Arrest Response Act](#), which provided for greater deployment and use of AEDs, which are capable of delivering electrical impulses into the heart. Statute ([Section 22-13-31.2 NMSA 1978](#)) requires all licensed school coaches to receive certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which must include training in the use of an AED.

In 2020, statistics from the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC) and the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES), revealed sport-related sudden cardiac arrests accounted for 39 percent of sudden cardiac arrests for children (see [Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation](#)). A trained responder or team can make a difference in the minutes before emergency medical services arrive.

Laypeople are less likely to initiate CPR or intervene during emergency episodes due to barriers raised by potential legal liability. The scope of immunity law does not prevent lawsuits but does make it easier to defend by protecting certain people for certain activities. New Mexico's Good Samaritan Law (Section 24- 10-3 NMSA 1978), generally protects from civil liability persons who attempt to come to the aid of another by providing care or assistance in good faith at the scene of an emergency, which is defined to mean, "an unexpected occurrence of injury or illness occurring in public or private places to a person that results from motor vehicle accidents or

collisions, acts of God, and other accidents and events of a similar nature.”

An estimated 1,700 lives were saved by bystander use of AEDs in 2018, according to the [National Institutes of Health](#).

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

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

Relates to House Bill 54 (HB54), Defibrillators in Every High School, which proposes amendments to require every high school in the state to install AEDs and develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Neither HB54 nor [Section 24-10C-7 NMSA 1978 \(Limited liability protections\)](#) currently extend limited liability protection to schools or school staff, although that section does extend such protections to “trained targeted responders,” which term is defined as, “a person trained in the use of an automated external defibrillator under emergency cardiac care guidelines.” Likewise, Section 11 of [7.27.8 NMAC](#) indicates, “Limited immunity protections are provided for persons or entities associated with an AED program, as described in the Cardiac Arrest Response Act...These protections are provided when the AED program is established and operated in accordance with that statute and these regulations.” If PED promulgated rules mandating AED training, and required that training to include emergency cardiac care guidelines, such personnel would likely be covered by the limited liability protection of [Section 24-10C-7 NMSA 1978](#) and [7.27.8 NMAC](#).

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

None.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None.