

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.gov

{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

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

Date January 18, 2024
Bill No: HB 101

Sponsor: Reps. Thomson, Cates, & Gurrola **Agency Name and Code Number:** Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department - 521
Short Title: Firefighter & Emergency Peer Support Act **Person Writing** Laura McCarthy
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
	\$500.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act - Unknown

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill addresses the behavioral health needs of firefighters and emergency responders by allowing state, local and regional public fire agencies to create peer support programs for their employees and volunteers. The bill will make the peer support services confidential and limit liability for the provision of peer support services. The bill makes an appropriation of \$500,000 to the State Fire Marshal’s office to implement the Act in fiscal year 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None for EMNRD.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is a public fire agency as defined in HB 101, employing wildland firefighters who experience critical incident stress. The Forestry Division currently relies upon federal agency partners and cooperators to provide peer support services for state employees as needed after a critical incident that involves a crisis, disaster, trauma or emergency. Wildfire response is typically an interagency process, and the Forestry Division has accessed the Interior Department and USDA Forest Service joint behavioral health programs after incidents that result in unusually strong emotional, cognitive, behavioral or physical reactions that interfere with normal functioning of employees. HB 101 would help to make these programs and supports more accessible to Forestry’s wildland firefighters without having to engage in time-intensive interagency agreements, allowing compassionate response to critical incidents to be immediately available.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

See Significant Issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None for EMNRD.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Forestry Division will not have access to peer support services administered by the State Fire Marshal's Office and will continue to rely upon behavioral health services offered by federal agency partners in the event that state firefighters experience critical incident stress after responding to a wildfire that involves crisis, disaster, trauma or emergency.

AMENDMENTS

N/A