

LFC Requester:	Kelly Klundt
-----------------------	---------------------

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

AgencyAnalysis.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 01/20/2024
Bill No: HB 144

Sponsor: <u>Rep. Hochman-Vigil</u>	Agency Name and Code <u>University of New Mexico-952</u>
Short Title: <u>Office of Gun Violence Prevention</u>	Number: _____
	Person Writing <u>Lenaya Montoya</u>
	Phone: <u>5052771670</u> Email <u>lenayamontoya@unm.edu</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB 144 creates the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention within the Department of Health. HB 144 provides for the selection and appointment of a director for the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention, with the director’s initial term beginning in on Jul 1, 2024, lasting until December 31, 2024. Additionally, HB 144 creates a nine member “director selection committee”, which contains members selected by Legislative Council, the Governor, and a committee chair selected by the majority of the members of the selection committee. HB 144 prescribes that the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention shall create and maintain a resource bank of regularly updated and accurate materials and resources regarding gun violence in New Mexico. Further, HB 144 requires the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention to identify and apply for any available federal grants and other funding to gather and disseminate data and

information regarding gun violence in New Mexico with a focus on public health, education, and racial and economic equity. HB 144 requires the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention to provide an annual report to the Legislature on its findings and recommendations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 144 creates the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention and creates a committee to select a director. There does not appear to be any funding associated with the creation of this new office or to fund the director position. The bill states that the Office may pursue other funding through grants etc., however there is no staff currently attached to the office to do this.

Lack of dedicated funding would likely impact the ability of the committee hiring the director to understand the financial impacts of this and what would be the salary range etc. The bill does not indicate if there is an existing job description. If not, there would need to be one developed and an analysis of the cost of the director position would also need to be performed.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Gun violence is a public health emergency nationwide and New Mexico has experienced substantial devastation with the loss of lives spanning all age groups. Creating an office to address gun violence in New Mexico is a key priority if we want to improve the health of this state. Creating an office dedicated to gun violence will help with identification of the key issues, modifiers, and necessary interventions, tailored to New Mexico, to address this public health emergency.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico has an opportunity to reduce gun violence through a dedicated office and potentially become a role model for the country.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The newly appointed director will likely need their own administrative support staff.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

There is no conflict but there needs to be clarity on how this office will interface with our existing state leadership and cabinet members.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The bill provides the ability to seek funding through federal grants and other mechanisms however there are no staff indicated in the office other than the director unless staff can be utilized from other existing departments, until the director of this office hires on staff. This would mean the director would need to be responsible for grant writing unless this function can be filled in some other way. This may reduce the effectiveness of the directors intended focus areas.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The state will continue to face the loss of lives and increased gun violence