

LFC Requester:**Eric Chenier**

**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 1/23/24

Bill No: SB166

Sponsor: Sen. Pope
Short Title: HCA Homelessness Reduction Division

Agency Name and Code HSD-630
Number: _____
Person Writing Alicia Salazar
Phone: 505-795-3920 **Email** Alicia.salazar2@hsd.nm.govv

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
\$0	\$1,278.60	Recurring	SGF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Staff costs	\$0	\$1,278.60	\$1,278.60	\$2,557.20	Recurring	SGF
IT related costs		\$3,674.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,674.00	Recurring and nonrecurring	SGF
Total		\$4,952.60	\$2,278.60	\$7,231.20		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

Senate Bill 166 (SB 166) amends the Health Care Authority Department Act to create the Homelessness Reduction Division within the Department and provides for its duty to lead the state’s comprehensive efforts to reduce homelessness, including creating a statewide “homeless data integration system.” Creates a 16-member Interagency Homeless Reduction Task Force, most at the Cabinet level, and an 18-member Homelessness Reduction Advisory Council, both administratively attached to the Division. Appropriates \$1 million (GF) to the Health Care Authority Department (HCA) for FY2025 to fund operations of the Division, Task Force and Advisory Council.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HCA/BHSD would need 2 FTE and .5 of a supervisor position to assist the homeless reduction advisory council to develop and implement a statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan, incorporating the Mortgage Finance Authority and BHSD’s strategic plans. This position would be assigned to the homelessness reduction advisory council to; reduce homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization with the goals of reducing and preventing homelessness; improving health and human services outcomes for people experiencing homelessness; strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability; and developing and achieving the goals of the statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan and initiatives provided for in Section 2 of this 2024 act. This would be a total of \$278,600 for salary, fringe, and administrative costs.

SB 166 calls for the creation of a “statewide data system, which shall be known as the "homeless data integration system", to collect local data through homeless management information systems so as to match data on homelessness to programs affecting homeless recipients of state programs.” The bill also states that “all continuums of care in the state shall provide collected data elements, including health information, consistent with federal law” to the data integration system. The bill does not specify any other details regarding the integration system. The

Automated System Program and Eligibility Network (ASPEN) does homeless status of HCA customers. An interface from ASPEN to the data integration system and associated dashboard capabilities is estimated to cost \$2,674,000.00 to build and would take approximately one year to complete. Work on this initiative could not start until state fiscal year 2025. In addition, it is estimated that information technology (IT) infrastructure software licensing costs and “continuum of care” interfaces would be incurred to host and maintain the data integration system. Until detailed requirements of the system could be gathered, it not possible to forecast an accurate cost however these infrastructure related costs will likely exceed \$1,000,000.00 per year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HCA/Behavioral Health Collaborative has an ad hoc subcommittee that is charged with focusing on the NM Supportive Housing Strategic Plan that has some of the stakeholders listed in the “interagency homelessness reduction task force” in section 3A.

NM Mortgage Finance Committee has a plan in place to provide leadership over the development of a statewide strategic plan to expand housing opportunities for all New Mexicans.

https://housingnm.org/uploads/documents/New_Mexico_Housing_Strategy_Executive_Summary_Sept_2022.pdf

The 2023 Point in Time Count (PIT) states that 3,842 New Mexicans were homeless in 2023 with 1,600 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. 1600 of these were unsheltered homelessness, but this count may not be an accurate count due to environmental and other factors, and does not count “couch surfing”, overcrowding in a family residence etc.

Precariously housed (not included in PIT data) and “hidden homelessness” put the state’s homeless population at between 15,000 and 20,000 people.

<https://www.petedinelli.com/2023/10/09/2023-point-in-time-count-of-homeless-finds-3842-unhoused-in-new-mexico-2394-unhoused-in-albuquerque-83-increase-from-last-year-city-spends-millions-a-year-as-homelessness-increases/>

Between 2022 and 2023, homelessness increased by 48% (1,250).

<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>

The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) estimates that at least 6,500 homeless persons are not receiving the assistance they need to successfully exit homelessness.

According to the state’s school districts, 9,000 New Mexico children were homeless during the 2019-2020 academic year.

https://housingnm.org/uploads/documents/Homlessness_and_Special_Needs_Housing_Research_Brief.pdf

Housing instability and homelessness disproportionately impact persons with a disability, mental illness, and/or substance use disorder.

[https://www.naccho.org/blog/articles/homelessness-among-individuals-with-disabilities-influential-factors-and-scalable-solutions#:~:text=Point%20in%20time%20counts%20\(,health%20and%20For%20substance%20abuse](https://www.naccho.org/blog/articles/homelessness-among-individuals-with-disabilities-influential-factors-and-scalable-solutions#:~:text=Point%20in%20time%20counts%20(,health%20and%20For%20substance%20abuse)

A 2022 study identified a shortage of 32,000 to 40,000 rental units for very low-income renters.

<https://housingnm.org/about-mfa/news/mfa-2022-annual-report-highlights-impact-of-collaboration-in-addressing-housing-crisis#:~:text=That%20study%20found%20that%20there,their%20income%20on%20housing%20costs.>

Per the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), stable housing can often be a barrier to wellness for individuals who suffer from behavioral health concerns. Housing that is affordable, supports individuals with the correct level of independence, that meets physical needs, and is discrimination free is key to sustainable recovery. Creating a centralized Housing Department could increase access to housing that meets the needs of those with behavioral health concerns.

<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Individuals-with-Mental-Illness/Finding-Stable-Housing>

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HCA/BHSD would need additional staff to assist the homeless reduction advisory council to develop and implement a statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan, incorporating the Mortgage Finance Authority and BHSD's strategic plans into this single statewide plan. These new positions would be assigned to the homelessness reduction advisory council to reduce homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization with the goals of: reducing and preventing homelessness; improving health and human services outcomes for people experiencing homelessness; strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability; and developing and achieving the goals of the statewide strategic homelessness reduction plan and initiatives provided for in Section 2 of this 2024 act.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill refers to the "health care authority department", the correct term is "health care authority (HCA)"

The bill refers to "homeless data integration system" but the HMIS homeless management system already exists, and other state agencies such as HCA/BHSD, PED, etc. currently collect data on precariously housed, homeless, and the programs they manage to address people existing homelessness.

"Homeless" should be replaced with "people experiencing homelessness or precariously housed, housing insecurity, housing instability".

Define "strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability."

BHSD is not identified as a part of the interagency homelessness reduction task Force. BHSD is only identified homeless reduction advisory council.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None

ALTERNATIVES

Status Quo

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None

AMENDMENTS

None