

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Eric Chenier</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}*

**Date Prepared:** 20 FEB 2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** Sb 3SS Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Sen. Peter Wirth, Sen. Mimi Sen. Stewart, Sen. William Sharer, Sen. Jay Block **Agency Name and Code** 790 – Department of Public Safety  
**Short Title:** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM AND **Person Writing** Dale R. Wagoner  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(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**

Senate Bill 3ss is the 2nd Substitute to SB 3.

SB3ss' changes:

1. On page 7, between lines 19 and 20, insert: "(8) identify a capable and accountable entity to execute regional plans; provided that different entities may be accountable for each identified regional funding priority;"
2. Renumber the succeeding paragraphs accordingly.
3. On page 8, line 23, strike "and".
4. On page 9, line 2, strike the period and insert in lieu thereof "; and".
5. On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert:  
(6) recommendations on successes, gaps and needs to better provide behavioral health care services."

Senate Bill 3a amended sections in Senate Bill 3 (SB 3) by adding in language related to behavioral health advocate and higher education institutions and including behavioral health stakeholders as participants in regional plans along with an appendix which lists all behavioral health service providers in each identified region.

Senate Bill 3 creates the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act; directs creation of Behavioral Health regions (geographic area that encompasses one or more counties or judicial districts) in which behavioral health services will be provided—meaning an array of services for the treatment, rehabilitation, prevention and identification of mental illnesses and substance abuse—pursuant to a phased-in regional plan for the continuation and expansion of behavioral health services. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is charged with designating health regions, coordinating regional meetings, completing resource mapping and coordinating development of regional behavioral health plans; declares an emergency.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal impact to DPS.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

No significant issues to DPS.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

DPS is in full support of Senate Bill 3ss. It contains several provisions that would assist law enforcement in New Mexico by directly addressing mental health and substance abuse issues, which are often linked to criminal behavior. Here's how the bill can help law enforcement:

1. **Creation of Behavioral Health Regions:** This would establish regional areas to deliver mental health and substance abuse services. By improving access to these services, law enforcement may encounter fewer people in crisis situations. Officers will have more access to local mental health professionals, leading to better handling of situations involving individuals with mental health or substance use issues. This could reduce the number of arrests and instead connect individuals with appropriate treatment.
2. **Prevention and Identification of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse:** Early identification and intervention for mental health and substance use disorders can prevent crises from escalating to law enforcement involvement. Law enforcement may be able to refer individuals in need to appropriate behavioral health resources, rather than having to rely on the justice system as a first option.
3. **Rehabilitation and Treatment Services:** This bill creates an opportunity for more comprehensive rehabilitation services, including treatment for both mental health disorders and substance abuse. Officers will have more options for diversion programs, allowing them to redirect individuals to

treatment rather than incarceration. This could help in reducing repeat offenses related to untreated conditions.

4. **Collaboration and Training:** As behavioral health services become more integrated into the community, law enforcement officers could receive specialized training to better handle situations involving mental health or substance abuse. Enhanced training could improve the outcomes for officers dealing with individuals in crisis, promoting de-escalation and reducing reliance on force.
5. **Support for Long-Term Solutions:** With a focus on prevention and long-term treatment, the bill could reduce the burden on the criminal justice system by addressing the root causes of criminal behavior, such as untreated mental health disorders and addiction. This would help law enforcement focus on more serious crimes and improve public safety.

In short, Senate Bill 3ss would provide law enforcement with more tools and resources to handle mental health and substance abuse issues in a way that emphasizes treatment and rehabilitation, reducing the criminalization of those in need of behavioral health support.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

No administrative implications to DPS.

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

No conflict, duplication, companionship or relationship to DPS.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

No technical issues to DPS.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

No other substantive issues to DPS.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Not applicable as no impact to DPS.

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

Status Quo will remain.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None at this time.