

LFC Requester:	SCOTT SANCHEZ
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to 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: 25FEB25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB507 la Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Joseph Cervantes **Agency Name and Code** 790 – Department of Public Safety
Short Title: FIREARM LICENSES & TRANSFERS **Number:** _____
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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
Total	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

The amendment for SB 507 includes the following:

1. On page 9, line 12, strike "--RECIPROCAL" and on line 13, strike "AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES".,

The Rules Committee Amendment to Senate Bill 507 removes the provision regarding reciprocal agreements with other states from the bill.

In its original form, Senate Bill 507 (SB507) would allow concealed handgun licenses to be granted to lawful permanent U.S. residents and adults 19 years of age (reduced from 21); reduces the number of hours needed for firearms training to receive a concealed carry license from 15 to six hours; eliminates several requirements for license renewal and rewrites rules related to state authority to transfer and recognize reciprocity of concealed handgun license, requiring a somewhat more relaxed process.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The amendment will have no fiscal impact to DPS.

The fiscal impact of the bill will largely depend on administrative processing costs and increased demand for background checks. By reducing training requirements and streamlining renewal processes, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) might see an increase in applicants.

The removal of the four-hour training requirement for renewal concealed carry applications would eliminate the need for CCU staff to cross-reference After Action Reports or AARs, which are submitted by instructors, for renewal applications. This would slightly lighten the workload for the department, creating more time for application processing. It would also reduce the financial burden on the applicants.

Removal of the two-year refresher training requirement would reduce the amount of manpower currently needed to maintain and upload two-year refresher status to the CCW database, allowing more time for effective, application processing, and reducing financial burdens on the applicants.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The removal of the reciprocal agreements provision means that firearm licenses or permits from other states will not be recognized in New Mexico. This could create challenges for out-of-state firearm owners who travel to New Mexico and previously relied on reciprocity agreements to legally carry or transfer firearms.

The change may impact New Mexico residents who frequently travel and benefit from reciprocity in other states. Without this provision, other states may reconsider recognizing New Mexico firearm permits in response.

Eliminating reciprocity agreements places full regulatory control within New Mexico, ensuring that all firearm licenses and transfers adhere strictly to state laws without external influence.

SB 507 reduces the training required for concealed carry applicants, raising concerns about firearm competency and safety. Lowering the age requirement and eliminating certain renewal requirements may also increase the number of concealed firearm carriers, potentially leading to greater risks to public safety if individuals lack adequate training. Additionally, the bill modifies state reciprocity rules, potentially allowing out-of-state license holders to carry concealed firearms in New Mexico without equivalent training or background checks, creating inconsistencies in enforcement.

Eliminating the requirement for shooting with designated weapon caliber, would allow concealed carry license holders to carry any caliber of weapon, qualifying with at least a minimum of a .32 caliber, which they may not have experience shooting. This may increase inaccuracy when shooting for the license holder and impact overall public safety.

Reduction of the initial application training requirement from 15 hours to 6 hours will not have any impact on the department or application processing. However, requiring the same 15-hour content be taught, in the reduced, 6-hour course, would create a challenge for instructors. This change would be more reasonable and attainable for applicants.

Recognition of reciprocity from all states would greatly reduce the amount of manpower currently needed for review of reciprocity for other states who are at least as stringent or substantially similar to NM concealed carry laws.

Adding mention of citizen or permanent resident to the law will reduce questions the CCU receives, regarding whether permanent residents are able to apply for a concealed carry permit.

Reducing the applicant age, from 21 to 19 years of age, may cause an influx of applications, creating higher workload and increased revenue from application fees.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The amendment removes the need for state agencies to manage and negotiate reciprocity agreements with other states, simplifying regulatory oversight.

Law enforcement and regulatory agencies will only enforce New Mexico firearm laws, without the additional burden of tracking reciprocal agreements with other jurisdictions.

The lack of reciprocity may lead to increased inquiries or confusion among firearm owners traveling across state lines, requiring clarification and potential legal challenges.

SB 507 aims to streamline concealed firearm licensing in New Mexico by reducing training requirements and easing renewal and reciprocity rules. While the bill promotes efficiency, it also raises concerns regarding firearm safety, law enforcement oversight, and administrative workload. LERB must prepare for increased demand and potential challenges in ensuring compliance. Amendments addressing reciprocity, and refresher training would strengthen the bill's effectiveness.

LERB will be responsible for monitoring compliance with new licensing provisions, requiring updated training for personnel to handle revised procedures. A more relaxed renewal process and the elimination of refresher courses may reduce workload per applicant but could lead to oversight issues. If applicants do not undergo periodic training, their firearm proficiency and legal knowledge may decline over time, potentially increasing liability concerns.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The amendment reduces administrative responsibilities, as state agencies will no longer need to establish or maintain reciprocal agreements with other states.

Licensing authorities will only process in-state firearm permits, avoiding the complexity of verifying out-of-state credentials.

The change could result in more individuals applying for New Mexico firearm licenses, as reciprocity will no longer be an option for out-of-state permit holders seeking to carry in the state.

SB507 requires LERB to oversee a revised application process, including:

- Processing initial applications and renewals with reduced requirements.
- Verifying electronic fingerprints and background checks for new applicants.
- Managing increased out-of-state license transfers within 90 days of residency.
- Ensuring timely reporting of lost, stolen, or revoked licenses.

Addressing potential increases in administrative workload due to a surge in applications following reduced restrictions

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB507 interacts with multiple existing statutes, including:

- Federal Law: The bill must align with the Gun Control Act of 1968 (18 U.S.C. § 922), which prohibits firearm possession by felons, individuals convicted of domestic violence offenses, and certain other restricted persons.
- State Law: New Mexico's current Concealed Handgun Carry Act (NMSA 1978, § 29-19-1) mandates specific training and licensing processes, some of which are relaxed under SB 507. The bill also modifies elements of NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2 related to unlawful carrying of deadly weapons.
- Potential Conflict: New Mexico's reciprocity agreements with other states may need revision to reflect changes in training and eligibility criteria.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The amendment has no technical issues for DPS.

To address technical issues in SB507, clarify reciprocity standards, reinstate periodic training, and enhance reporting for license suspensions. The bill also lacks a clear process for verifying out-of-state training and may face challenges enforcing the 90-day transfer requirement.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The amendment will have no other substantive issues to DPS.

- SB507 does not explicitly address whether private businesses can prohibit concealed carry beyond posting signage, potentially leading to legal ambiguity.
- Law enforcement officers will need updated guidance on recognizing valid licenses under revised reciprocity rules.
- Removing the refresher course requirement eliminates a checkpoint for ensuring continued firearm proficiency and knowledge of laws.
- HB507 removes the current mechanism for establishing reciprocity with

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable as no impact to DPS.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo will remain.

AMENDMENTS

The statement of fingerprints not being required if they are already on file, as per 10.8.2.12 F NMAC, is not compliant with FBI CJIS Security Policy requirements. New fingerprints should be required for every initial and renewal application.

