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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Dow/Vincent/Chatfield/Murphy/Duncan **LAST UPDATED** _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/2025
SHORT TITLE Hunting & Fishing License Voter Registration **BILL NUMBER** House Bill 208
ANALYST Gaussoin

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
DGF	No fiscal impact	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Nonrecurring	Other state funds

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bill 170, House Joint Resolution 10, and Senate Bill 16

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)
Department of Game and Fish (DGF)
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 208

House Bill 208 would allow for New Mexicans to register to vote when applying for a hunting or fishing license.

The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Game and Fish (DGF) sells hunting and fishing licenses at vendor locations and in department offices using custom-built web-based software; this software would have to be programmed to include an interface with the Secretary of State. Given that the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) has extensive experience with online voter registration that piggy-backs on other MVD functions, the agency likely has the expertise to share with DGF.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Secretary of State views voter registration through DGF as “another opportunity to reach eligible New Mexicans with election information and register them to vote.” The office reports it has existing authority under 1-4-48 NMSA 1978 to “designate other state and local public offices to provide voter registration services with the agreement of those offices,” and is willing to work with DGF to establish voter registration processes.

The Congressional Sportsmen Foundation, closely aligned with the Congressional Sportsmen Caucus, advocates for hunter and angler voter registration and, in 2024, launched the “I Fish. I Hunt. I Vote” campaign. The foundation contends voter turnout is low among potential voters and is necessary for lawmakers to understand “the critical role the sportsmen and women have in conservation.”

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 208 relates to several bills that would affect voter access: House Bill 170, which would require voter identification, House Joint Resolution 10, which would ask voters to consider a constitutional amendment removing felony conviction as a voting disqualifier, and Senate Bill 16, which would create an open primary election

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