

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 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: January 21, 2026 **Check all that apply:**
Bill Number: HB 75 **Original** **Correction**
Amendment **Substitute**

**Agency Name
and Code**

Sponsor: Reeb **Number:** NM Sentencing Commission – 354
Short Title: Alteration of Sentence Based on Circumstances **Person Writing** Keri Thiel
Phone: 505-259-8763 **Email** kthiel@unm.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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:

House Bill 75 would amend Section 31-18-15.1, regarding the alteration of a basic sentence due to mitigating or aggravating circumstances, to require that a finding of mitigating circumstances be “by clear and convincing evidence”.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Section 31-18-15.1 does not currently provide an evidentiary standard to be applied to findings of mitigating circumstances, while it does provide the “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard for findings of aggravating circumstances. “By clear and convincing evidence” is a lower standard than “beyond a reasonable doubt”, but a higher standard than none at all. Therefore, the addition of the “by clear and convincing evidence” standard may make it less likely that defendants will have their basic sentences reduced due to mitigating circumstances.

The electronic court data possessed by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission for FY24 (the most recent data to which we have access), does not contain any references to Section 31-18-15.1 NMSA 1978 or to alterations of a basic sentence due to mitigating factors more generally. Thus, it is unclear how often that occurs or what impact, if any, the addition of a statutory evidentiary standard would have on the length of a defendant’s sentence.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS