

LFC Requester:

Scott Sanchez

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO****[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://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:** 01/20/2026*Check all that apply:***Bill Number:** HB81Original X ☐ Correction ☐Amendment ☐ Substitute ☐**Sponsor:** John Block, Stefani Lord,
Randall Pettigrew**Agency Name****and Code****Number:**770- NMCD**Short****Person Writing**A. Griego Quintana**Title:**Permitless Carry of Firearms**Phone:**505-479-2296**Email** Anisa.griego-quinta@cd.nm.gov**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	0	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	General

(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 81 would amend the Criminal Code and establish permitless carry of firearms in New Mexico for adults 18 and older. It would remove firearms from the definition of “deadly weapon” in state law and would eliminate concealed carry permit requirements.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Corrections Department could see added costs depending on how cases are resolved and whether individuals are sentenced to prison or supervised in the community. Eliminating the permit requirement may result in a greater number of individuals carrying firearms, potentially resulting in an increase in the risk of firearm related violent incidents. Under the proposal, individuals would be permitted to carry a firearm, either openly or concealed, without obtaining a permit. Increased access to and possession of handguns may contribute to a higher rate of violent crime, which has the potential to increase the New Mexico Corrections Department’s prison population.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The effect of repealing NMSA 30-7-2.2 would likely impact the NMCD. The statute currently prohibits an individual under 19 years of age from possessing a handgun unless they are participating in a hunter safety class, participating in a lawful shooting activity, engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a handgun, engaged in hunting or trapping activities, traveling, or on real property under the control of the person’s parent/grandparent/legal guardian. The bill, if passed, would allow a new group of people, 18-year-olds, to carry a firearm on their person, thereby providing many more opportunities for them to commit firearms-based crimes, which has the potential to increase the NMCD prison population.

The effect of repealing NMSA 30-7-2.3 would remove a means for law enforcement to seize handguns in violation of NMSA 30-7-2.2, which would also be repealed.

The effect of repealing NMSA 30-7-2.3 would remove restrictions on possession of handguns on university premises.

The effect of repealing NMSA 30-7-3 would also likely impact the NMCD. This statute currently prohibits an individual from “unlawful carrying of a firearm in an establishment licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages.” Clearly, the legislative intent of this statute was to prevent bar patrons from escalating their intoxicated arguments into armed shootouts. Repealing this statute would have an obvious effect on the NMCD, as armed shootouts frequently result in grave injuries or fatalities, the commission of which are likely to land the perpetrator in the NMCD prison system, thereby increasing the NMCD prison population.

The proposed amendments to NMSA 30-1-12 would remove firearms from a list of various weapons classified as “deadly weapons” under the statute, including various kinds of blades, slingshots, and bludgeons, and prohibited from carry except in limited circumstances.

The proposed amendments to NMSA 30-7-1, 30-7-2, and 30-7-13 would remove restrictions on carrying loaded firearms, including on buses.

All these changes would reduce restrictions on possession of firearms in the community, potentially increasing opportunities for firearm possession, as well as firearm use and firearm related crimes if more people carry them.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS