

**NMDOT BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

*{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute, or a correction of a previous bill}*

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment \_\_\_\_\_  
Correction \_\_\_\_\_ Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Date Prepared: 01/27/2026

Bill No. HB 112

Sponsor: John Block Agency/ Code: NMDOT - 805 – Office of General Counsel  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
100	0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: None presently identified.

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None presently identified.

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

House Bill 112 (HB 112) proposes setting daylight savings time as the permanent year-round time for the State of New Mexico.

HB 112 identifies in Section 1 that the State is exempt from the imposition of daylight savings time pursuant to 15 U.S.C.A. § 260a, including as daylight savings time is defined by federal law, and then adopts daylight light savings time for the State and its political subdivisions. HB 112 exempts its application from the movement of common carriers engaged in interstate commerce, or performance by officers or a department of the United States as bound by federal law.

In Section 2, HB 112 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for expenditure in fiscal years 2027 and 2028, so that DoIT can convert state information technology systems to permanent daylight savings time.

In Section 3, HB 112 issues an effective date contingent on “the effective date of a federal law authorizing a state to exempt itself or a part of itself from Section 260a.” HB 112 goes on to identify that the State of Texas and County of El Paso have issued similar enactments.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB 112 identifies the appropriation of \$100,000 for expenditure in fiscal years 2027 and 2028 from the general fund for DoIT to convert state information technology systems. The appropriation would be at the expense of other appropriations for which those monies could serve the State of New Mexico and its population.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HB 112 is premised on a law that does not exist. Currently, federal law allows a State to exempt itself from daylight savings time, not to enact permanent daylight savings time. See 15 U.S.C.A. § 260a:

[A]ny State that lies entirely within one time zone may by law exempt itself from the provisions of this subsection *providing for the advancement of time*, but only if that law provides that the entire State (...) *shall observe the standard time otherwise applicable during that period*.

[Emphases added.]

In accordance with federal law, should the State opt to exempt itself from reverting to its standard time zone, which is HB 112’s objective, it must present the USDOT Secretary with the approvals necessary to eliminate the time change, *provided that New Mexico is able to be moved to the Central Time Zone absent U.S. Congressional declaration*. Namely, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 261:

For the purpose of establishing the standard time of the United States, the territory of the United States shall be divided into nine zones in the manner provided in this section. Except as provided in [15 U.S.C.A. § 260a], the standard time of the first zone shall be Coordinated Universal Time retarded by 4 hours; that of the second zone retarded by 5 hours; that of the third zone retarded by 6 hours; that of the fourth zone retarded by 7 hours; that of the fifth zone retarded [by] 8 hours; that of the sixth zone retarded by 9 hours; that of the seventh zone retarded by 10 hours; that of the eighth zone retarded by 11 hours; and that of the ninth zone shall be Coordinated Universal Time advanced by 10 hours. *The limits of each zone shall be defined by an order of the Secretary of Transportation*, having regard for the convenience of commerce and the existing junction points and division points of common carriers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and any such order may be modified from time to time.

[Emphasis added.]

Whether federal law changes to allow for the application of HB 112, the question arises as to the merits of moving into another standard time zone or to remain in the Mountain Standard Time Zone with the application of daylight savings time.

Tufts University professor, Michael Downing, author of *Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time*, reported that each year at least 10, and often as many as 30 new bills appear in various state legislatures to advocate either permanently ending daylight savings time or observing daylight savings time all year long. Currently, residents of Arizona (except for Navajo Nation Reservation residents), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands have passed legislation exempting them from daylight savings time adjustments.

The research regarding the merits of daylight savings time varies. For instance, according to a report to Congress in October 2008, extended daylight savings time reportedly saved 1.3 terawatt hours of electricity in the course of its study. That figure suggests that the practice reduces annual U.S. electricity consumption by 0.03% and overall energy consumption by 0.02%. However, environmental economist, Hendrik Wolff, of the University of Washington, co-authored a report regarding Australian power-use data which discussed the result when parts of the country observed extended daylight savings time for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and other parts did not. The researchers found that the practice of observing daylight savings time reduced lighting and electricity consumption in the evening, but increased energy use in the dark mornings, and, thus, eliminated the evening gains.

Also, the impact for the individual adjusting to daylight savings time commencement and concluding is reflected in a national survey by Rasmussen Reports. The survey shows that 83% of respondents knew when to move their clocks ahead in spring 2010. However, 27% were reported to have been an hour early or late at least once in their lives because they hadn't changed their clocks correctly.

Lastly, national telephone surveys conducted by Rasmussen Reports in 2009, 2010 and 2011 reveal that 47% of Americans "don't think the time change is worth the hassle," while 40% disagree.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Because NMDOT construction and highway maintenance operations adjust to meet available daylight hours, the impact of changing the State's applicable standard time zone will likely produce negligible results.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None noted. With the removal of the State to permanent daylight savings time, i.e., from the Mountain Standard Time Zone, employees will continue to work their assigned schedules.

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

None.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Should the underlying issue be that of the shift in time between standard and daylight savings time, and not the time zone in which the State of New Mexico is situated, then an alternative approach to HB 112 would be to lock the State into Mountain Standard Time, which is the standard time “otherwise applicable” for the state during the daylight savings time adjustment. This is consistent with the authority already granted the State of New Mexico in 15 U.S.C.A. § 260a.

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

Daylight savings time adjustments to the State of New Mexico’s Mountain Standard Time Zone will continue in the spring and fall of each year.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.