

LFC Requester:	Carlie Malone
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Date Prepared: 01/23/2026

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 124

Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Cristina Parajón, Sen. Cindy Nava

Agency Name and Code Number: 305 – New Mexico Department of Justice

Short Title: New Americans Division in WSD

Person Writing Analysis: Hope A. Bauman

Phone: 505-645-5980

Email: Fir.request@nmdoj.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

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

This analysis is neither a formal Opinion nor an Advisory Letter issued by the New Mexico Department of Justice. This is a staff analysis in response to a committee or legislator's request. The analysis does not represent any official policy or legal position of the NM Department of Justice.

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB 124 amends the Workforce Solutions Department Act (“WSDA” or the “Act”) to establish a New Americans Division (“NAD”) within the New Mexico Workforce Solutions Department (“WSD” or “Department”). See, NMSA 1978, §§ 9-26-3, *et seq.*

Section 1 defines “new Americans” as individuals residing in the United States who are not legally United States citizens or not United States citizens at birth.

Section 2 expands WSD’s organizational structure to include the NAD, which will support the economic integration of new Americans into New Mexico’s workforce and business community.

Section 3 defines NAD’s duties to include:

- promoting education and workforce training initiatives
- improving opportunities and pathways for professional licensure for individuals trained abroad;
- assisting New Mexican employers that hire and employ new Americans;
- helping new Americans advance into priority economic sectors; and
- developing and providing resources on policies affecting new Americans in New Mexico, including, but not limited to, providing support to legally eligible permanent residents intending to naturalize in the United States.

The NAD is also authorized to work with other WSD divisions and state departments to carry out its purpose. Beginning August 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the NAD must submit reports to an interim legislative committee that studies economic and rural development and policy, the Governor of New Mexico, and members of the New Mexico Legislature detailing NAD’s annual activities, including “an analysis of the economic impact, status, population and workforce numbers of new Americans in [New Mexico].”

Section 4 includes a temporary provision that requires NAD to “study, evaluate and prepare a report on the work, economic impact and structure of refugee resettlement in New Mexico.” NAD may consult relevant state agencies and community stakeholders to complete this report. NAD must submit its report to the interim economic and rural development and policy legislative committee by December 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The new Americans division will likely need to collect data about “new Americans” as well as businesses and community-based organizations willing to work with them. Considering ICE’s aggressive enforcement tactics, it is likely that ICE would seek to obtain such databases maintained by the new Americans division. The bill drafters may wish to consider bolstering confidentiality provisions of the Workforce Solutions Department Act to prohibit sharing any data collected by the new Americans division with ICE. Workforce Solutions Department may require additional resources to protect its data.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

N/A