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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

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*{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}*

*Click all that apply:*

**Original**  **Amendment**   
**Correction**  **Substitute**

**Date Prepared:** 2026-01-23  
**Bill No:** HB124

**Sponsor:** Parajon, Cristina  
NEW AMERICANS  
**Short Title:** DIVISION IN WSD

**Agency Name and Code** NMHED  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing:** Bird, Nathana  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund Affected

<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>or Nonrecurring</b>	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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**

House Bill 124 (HB124) New Americans Division in the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) amends Section 9-26-3 NMSA 1978, the Workforce Solution Act, by replacing the business services with the unemployment insurance division.

In addition, HB124 establishes the New Americans Division in DWS. HB124 outlines division duties and reporting requirements, along with a required study to be conducted on the economic impact, status, population, and workforce data on the New Americans in the State of New Mexico.

Lastly, HB124 establishes a temporary provision to study and report on the state refugee resettlement program.

The reporting for this bill is set to take effect on August 1, 2027, and requires reporting to be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup> every year thereafter.

HB124 does not pertain to the New Mexico Department of Higher Education (NMHED) directly but may have an indirect impact.

NMHED’s analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies’ analyses.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB124 does not include an appropriation.

However, without appropriation, DWS will not be able to continue this program when there is a lack of grant funding. DWS states this legislation currently relies on continued grant funding. ([https://www.dws.state.nm.us/Portals/0/NMDWS\\_Legislative-Session-Priorities\\_2026.pdf](https://www.dws.state.nm.us/Portals/0/NMDWS_Legislative-Session-Priorities_2026.pdf))

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The definition of New Americans is “people residing in the United States who are not citizens of the United States or who were not citizens of the United States at birth.”

The American Immigration Council, in partnership with the World Education Series (WES), has been coordinating a nationwide effort within states to develop Offices of New Americans (ONA). Thus far, 23 states have established networks.

The nationwide network serves as a forum for state officials to exchange information and share practices related to immigrant and refugee integration, particularly in areas related to the workforce and the economy. (<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/state-local-initiatives/office-of-new-americans/>)

In New Mexico, the Office of New Americans (the Office) was created in 2024 by DWS utilizing grant funding. According to DWS, HB124 will create a statute for the New Americans Division. The nationwide network mentioned above provides training and support for state-established networks. There is no appropriation indicated on this bill.

HB124 requires the Office to work with other departments and agencies (such as NMHED) to fulfill all necessary duties as outlined. The Office will also provide a report to an interim committee that studies economic and rural development and policy, to the secretary, the governor, and to members of the legislature on the impact over 12 months.

HB124 also indicates that the New Americans Division will study, evaluate, and prepare a report on the impact of the refugee resettlement program to be presented to the interim committee. This report is expected to be completed by December 1, 2026.

## PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB124 does not outline specific performance measures. However, if funded, there are reporting requirements for the New Americans Division.

## ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Workforce Solutions would administer this program.

Additional departments and agencies may be required to support this program, including NMHED, which is specifically referenced in the bill.

## CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None at this time.

## TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB124 is not passed, the New Americans Division will not be permanent in New Mexico.

AMENDMENTS

N/A