

LFC Requester:

Emily Hilla

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: 01/28/26

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 177Original Correction Amendment Substitute

Sponsor:	Alan Martinez / Mark Duncan /	Agency Name and Code Number:	Department of Veterans' Services
	Rebecca Dow		67000
Short Title:	Veteran Service Animal Services & Shelter	Person Writing	Danelle Lucero
		Phone: <u>505-372-9035</u>	Email: <u>Danelle.lucero@dvs.nm.gov</u>

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

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

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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	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

This bill appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the New Mexico Veterans' Services Department to contract for services that provide safe, humane, and consistent care for veterans' service and companion animals. By ensuring temporary care and veterinary care for veterans' animals, the legislation reduces barriers to accessing homelessness services, housing stability, medical care, and other supportive services, allowing veterans to seek assistance without compromising the well-being of their animals.

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill provides a \$150,000 appropriation to the New Mexico Veterans' Services Department to fund temporary care for veterans' service and companion animals. Services include animal boarding, veterinary care, kennels at veteran housing facilities, and pet food, ensuring veterans can access healthcare, medical care, homelessness services, and other supportive programs without compromising the safety and well-being of their animals.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS Minimal impact to NMDVS if HB 177 becomes law, while no additional permanent staff is anticipated, the department will incur some administrative workload related to contract management, oversight, and reporting. The impact on operations is expected to be minimal. However, there will be additional administrative costs to provide promotional materials aimed at informing our veteran community about the benefit. These costs can effectively be absorbed within the existing marketing budget without requiring additional funding.

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 N/A

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS: If enacted, this bill would enable the New Mexico Veterans' Services Department to improve service delivery to veterans by removing a key barrier to accessing healthcare, homelessness programs, and supportive services. By funding temporary care for service and companion animals, the department can ensure that veterans are able to participate fully in critical programs without compromising the welfare of their animals. The workload required to administer contract services would be absorbed within the Healthcare Coordination and Administrative Services Divisions.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS: The Veterans' Services Department will be responsible for administering the \$150,000 appropriation by managing contracts with external providers who deliver temporary care for veterans' service and companion animals. The department will also need to coordinate with veteran housing facilities and service providers to identify eligible animals and veterans, oversee service delivery, and report on outcomes. While no additional permanent staff is anticipated, the department will incur some administrative workload related to contract management, oversight, and reporting.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES N/A

ALTERNATIVES N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL Without this legislation, many veterans experiencing homelessness or seeking assistance may avoid shelter, healthcare, or other support programs if doing so requires leaving their service or companion animals behind. The lack of infrastructure to accommodate this service limits participation in essential services, prolongs homelessness, and reduces engagement with behavioral health, housing, and benefits programs. Without funding for temporary animal care such as boarding, veterinary services, kennels, and pet food, veterans may delay or forego critical medical treatment and supportive services, negatively impacting their health, housing stability, and overall well-being.

AMENDMENTS