

LFC Requester:	Sanchez, Scott
-----------------------	-----------------------

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: 1/29/26 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 197 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Andrea Reeb **Agency Name and Code** AOC
Short Title: Increase Penalty for Larceny of Firearm **Number:** 218
Person Writing Kathleen Sabo
Phone: 505-470-3214 **Email** aoccaj@nmcourts.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	Rec.	General

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Rec.	General

(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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Rec.	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

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

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB 197 amends Section 30-16-1 NMSA 1978, within the Criminal Code and governing larceny, to increase the penalty from a fourth degree felony to a third degree felony when the property of value stolen is a firearm valued at less than \$2,500.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a minimal administrative cost for statewide update, distribution and documentation of statutory changes. Any additional fiscal impact on the judiciary would be proportional to the enforcement of this law and commenced prosecutions and appeals from convictions. New laws, amendments to existing laws and new hearings have the potential to increase caseloads in the courts, thus requiring additional resources to handle the increase.

Increased penalties are likely to result in more defendants invoking their right to trials, as well as to jury trials. More trials and more jury trials will require additional judge time, courtroom staff time, courtroom availability and jury fees. Indigent offenders are entitled to public defender services.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

1) Increased penalties are likely to result in more defendants invoking their right to trials, as well as to jury trials. More trials and more jury trials will require additional judge time, courtroom staff time, courtroom availability and jury fees. Indigent offenders are entitled to public defender services.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The courts are participating in performance-based budgeting. This bill may have an impact on the measures of the district courts in the following areas:

- Cases disposed of as a percent of cases filed
- Percent change in case filings by case type

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

See "Fiscal Implications," above.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS