

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: 1.29.26

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 198Original Correction Amendment Substitute Sponsor: Alan T. MartinezShort Title: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & FIRST RESPONDER TRAININGAgency Name and Code: NM Department of Homeland Security & EmergencyNumber: Management-79500Person Writing: Amber GonzalesPhone: 505-487-6692 Email: Amber.gonzales@dhsem.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	\$2,000	Nonrecurring	General Fund

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

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 198 appropriates two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from the general fund to the Department of Health for fiscal year 2027 to provide behavioral health treatment and training for first responders. The bill specifies that any unexpended balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 198 provides a nonrecurring appropriation to the Department of Health. There is no direct fiscal impact to the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill supports behavioral health services and training for first responders, a population that may experience elevated exposure to traumatic events. Implementation details, including eligibility criteria, program structure, and coordination with other agencies serving first responders, are not specified in the bill and would be determined by the Department of Health.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB 198 does not directly impact performance measures for DHSEM. The bill may indirectly support workforce resilience and operational readiness among first responders statewide.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DHSEM/SFMO recognizes the ongoing need for firefighter mental health resources and has been looking into appropriate ways to support access to them. DHSEM/SFMO views firefighter mental health as essential to responder safety and long-term workforce resilience. Several departments across the state have independently developed programs, and these efforts would help support and build upon those existing initiatives.

Currently, SFMO is working with the New Mexico Professional Firefighters Union on firefighter mental health efforts and with AFR on an interfaith chaplaincy program available statewide to support firefighter mental health. DHSEM/SFMO will continue to work with partner agencies and fire service stakeholders as these efforts move forward.

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS