

LFC Requester:

Helen Gaussoin

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: 1/29/26

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 201

Original X Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown and
Sen. Natalie Figueroa

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

Short Title: IPRA Task Force Funding

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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:

The IPRA Task Force Funding bill would appropriate \$500,000 from the general fund to NMDOJ for the fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to study the Inspection of Public Records Act. The bill would allow NMDOJ to hire staff to assist the task force convened by NMDOJ in House Joint Memorial 2.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 201 would appropriate \$500,000 from the general fund for FY 2026 and 2027 for the purpose of hiring staff to assist with the IPRA task force. By applying the funds in FY 2026, the attorney general can immediately put these resources to use to support the important work of the IPRA task force created by HJM 2.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The funding for HB 201 is tied to HJM 2, which would create an IPRA task force headed by NMDOJ. HJM2 would enable NMDOJ to run an IPRA task force upon adoption of the bill for approximately a year, to include gathering input, evaluating the current legislation, present findings and make recommendations, and drafting proposed recommendations based on the task force’s findings.

HB 201 specifically states that the appropriation would be for the purpose of hiring staff for the task force convened by NMDOJ.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill is a companion to and supports the important work of HJM 2, the IPRA Implementation

Study Task Force.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If neither HJM 2 nor HB 201 are enacted, then status quo.

However, if HJM 2 is enacted without HB 201, then the IPRA task force will not have the resources to immediately begin work, which would impair the effectiveness of the task force.

AMENDMENTS

N/A