

LFC Requester:	LFC
-----------------------	-----

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{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: 2026-01-29
Bill No: HB201

Sponsor: Brown, Cathrynn N
IPRA TASK FORCE
Short Title: FUNDING

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Armijo, Alicia
alicia.armijo@hed.nm.gov
Phone: 5056606335 **Email:** nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$500.0	N/A	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund Affected

FY26	FY27	FY28	or Nonrecurring	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure 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:

HJM2

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 201 (HB201) provides an appropriation of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the General Fund to the New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). The appropriation is for the hiring of staff to assist a task force convened by the NMAG to study the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB201 relates to House Joint Memorial 2 (HJM2) which directs the New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) to convene a task force to study the implementation of IPRA. The task force would be charged with evaluating the workability, functionality, and effectiveness of IPRA in ensuring government transparency and serving the public interest. This would be accomplished through the task force's gathering of input from relevant stakeholders. Based on the findings of the task force, the NMAG may be required to draft proposed legislation and recommendations for consideration. The draft legislation and recommendations would be considered during the 58th New Mexico Legislature. HJM2 establishes requirements for representation from various entities including the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED). Additionally, HJM2 requires that the task force provide public notice of its meetings and allow the public to provide input on its work.

HJM2 assigns new functions and duties to NMHED. HJM2 does not provide an appropriation to help cover the increased costs and workload associated with these new duties. NMHED would be required to select at least one employee to serve in the task force HJM2 seeks to establish. Currently, NMHED has one staff member designated as a records custodian and responsible for handling IPRA requests.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB201 establishes an appropriation for hiring of staff by the NMAG. The staff would provide assistance to a task force convened by the NMAG to study IPRA.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB201 relates to HJM2 which directs the NMAG to convene a task force to study the implementation of IPRA.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Office of the Attorney General is now called the New Mexico Department of Justice. Language in HB201 may need to be updated to clarify the recipient of the appropriation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB201 were not passed, then the NMAG would not receive five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the General Fund to hire staff that would assist a task force to be convened by the NMAG.

AMENDMENTS

N/A