

LFC Requester:

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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: February 1, 2026 Check all that apply:
Bill Number: HB 235 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Lord **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952
Short Title: SUDDEN UNEXPECTED YOUNG PERSON DEATH REPORTS **Number:** _____
Person Writing Kelly O'Donnell
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

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 235 mandates comprehensive investigation and reporting of certain sudden and unexpected deaths of individuals under age 20. The bill requires that specified deaths—including sudden unexplained deaths, sudden cardiac deaths in otherwise healthy youth, and all sudden infant deaths—be investigated through a full autopsy with microscopic and toxicologic studies, review of medical and immunization records, and reporting to both the state registrar and a national sudden death case registry. The bill also requires autopsy reports to document any immunizations administered within 90 days prior to death.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Office of the Medical Investigator already conducts comprehensive investigations of sudden and/or unexpected child and youth deaths. By imposing mandatory data collection and reporting requirements that are not directly related to the determination of cause or manner of death, the bill would constrain OMI's professional discretion over workflow, documentation, and case closure and could increase administrative burdens without altering medical conclusions.

HB 235 could increase workload and costs for the Office of the Medical Investigator. The bill specifies additional investigative elements including review of immunization records, and expands reporting obligations. These requirements would increase the time and resources needed per case and add administrative and data-reporting duties. Absent additional resources, the expanded mandates could further strain existing staffing and laboratory capacity and contribute to investigation backlogs.

Mandatory review of immunization records by a medical examiner solely because a child or youth dies suddenly or unexpectedly appears unprecedented. State forensic death-investigation laws typically limit mandatory record review to information relevant to determining cause and manner of death.

Immunization histories are maintained by DOH in New Mexico's immunization information system, not the clinical charts routinely reviewed by OMI in investigating a death.

Much of the information that would be abstracted or reported by OMI under HB 235 (medical history, circumstances of death, investigative findings) is already reviewed and synthesized by the New Mexico Child Fatality Review, using OMI reports as a primary source.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS