

LFC Requester:

Allegra Hernandez

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: 2/4/2026

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 295Original Correction Amendment Substitute Sponsor: Rep. Cates and LujanAgency Name
and CodeDevelopmental Disabilities Council
647

Short

Person Writing

Joseph TurkTitle: Accessibility ActPhone: 505-318-9773Email Joe.Turk@ddc.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0	0	N/A	N/A

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
0	0	0	N/A	N/A

(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	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A

(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: This bill would create a new state agency, the Office of Accessibility, within the Governor's Commission on Disability. The primary purpose of the Office would be to facilitate compliance of all NM state agencies with digital and physical accessibility standards. The Office would create a form or process for each agency to evaluate their websites, mobile applications, and physical facilities to ensure accessibility, and provide training on how to meet those standards. A biannual report would be produced by the Office, starting July 1, 2027, assessing each state agency's efforts to become more accessible both digitally and physically. The report would describe progress made, describe barriers to accessibility, and planned corrective action measures.

Additionally, the Act requires all state agencies to comply with digital accessibility standards for web and mobile applications, and physical accessibility standards, by April 1, 2027. This effectively would compel all state agencies to meet the highest level of accessibility for all programs, services, and activities. Each agency's website also would be required to post a statement acknowledging the state's commitment to accessibility, known accessibility limitations for the website, measure taken by the agency to address those limitations, and contact information to alert the agency of additional accessibility issues.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill contains no appropriations. There would be no direct cost to DDC in the creation of the Office of Accessibility. It is likely that DDC would have to contract to determine whether its website complies with the accessibility standards, and additional costs to address any limitations found.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are several potential positive benefits to implementations of this bill. The general public would have a central location to contact regarding accessibility of state agencies. Given the breadth of activities undertaken by state agencies, having one location to address these concerns would reduce the need for piecemeal activity by each individual agency. State agencies would similarly have a reliable source to help determine whether their accessibility efforts are adequate, and technical assistance to address areas where they fall short. Finally, the biannual report would provide a regular checkup on the progress of efforts to ensure all New Mexicans have equal access to state resources.

The largest area of concern for this bill is the lack of appropriation, particularly given its creation of a state office and the unknown cost for each agency to implement the accessibility standards. Each agency's individual cost is likely to vary widely, depending on the number of physical locations to assess and upgrade, the number of programs and activities conducted, and the complexity of its web and mobile applications. Ideally, each agency would have implemented state-of-the-art accessibility into its digital programs as they developed and evolved over time. But those agencies who do not focus their efforts on serving New Mexicans with disabilities may need additional evaluation and improvements, at an unknown cost.

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