

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: 1/16/2026

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HJM 2

Original X Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown

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

Person Writing

Analysis: Carrie Cook

Short IPRA Implementation Study

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Title: Task Force

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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 Implementation Task Force bill would create a task force with the goal to evaluate the current IPRA statute and identify areas where the clarity, transparency, or application of IPRA can be improved upon by the legislature to enhance transparency in government.

NMDOJ would convene the task force, made up of a representative from NMDOJ, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the New Mexico Higher Education Department, the New Mexico Municipal League, the New Mexico Association of Counties, the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Press Association. Additionally, the task force would include a defense attorney and plaintiff's attorney specializing in IPRA, and public school records custodian.

The task force would be convened to submit findings regarding IPRA's workability, functionality, and effectiveness toward government transparency and possibly draft proposed legislation for the first session of the 58th legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HJM2 would require NMDOJ to take on the responsibility of running the task force for approximately a year, to include gathering input, evaluating the current legislation, present findings and make recommendations, and possibly draft proposed recommendations based on the task force's findings. While HJM2 itself gives great flexibility, it lacks clarity for how the task force is to operate. HJM2 mentions relevant stakeholders on page 2 line 12 but does not discuss or define them beyond the task force members themselves. HJM2 also does not set out how the task force's findings would be presented or disseminated during the legislative session; it discusses the possibility of drafting proposed legislation but it is not clear if that would be as part of the task force's initial findings and recommendations. It is also unclear if the task force is disbanded once it has fulfilled its purpose of issuing findings.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

See performance implications. As noted above, HJM2 would require NMDOJ to run a task force but does not set aside any corresponding funding or resources for doing so.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

p. 2 line 21 should be “Office of the New Mexico Department of Justice”, p. 2 line 21 should be “the Administrative office of the Courts”, and p. 2 line 22 should be “the New Mexico High Education Department”, p. 2 line 22 should be capitalized as “New Mexico Municipal League”, p. 2 line 23 should be capitalized as “New Mexico Association of Counties”, p. 2 line 23 should be “New Mexico Foundation for Open Government”, p. 2 line 24 should be “American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico”, and p. 2 line 25 should be “New Mexico Press Association”.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None.