

LFC Requester:	Scott Sanchez
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

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{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}

Check all that apply:
Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date January 28, 2026
Bill No: HM 13-280

Sponsor: Andrea Reeb, Christine Chandler
Short 10-Year Criminal Justice Plan
Title: _____

Agency Name and Code LOPD-280
Number: _____
Person Writing Theresa Edwards
Phone: 505.395.2863 **Email** theresa.edwards@lopdm.us

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	-	\$2.8	\$4.9	\$7.7	Nonrecurring	Gener Fund

(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 Memorial 13 requests a task force be convened to develop a ten-year plan in response to the LFC’s recent report *Policy Spotlight: Felony Arrests and Outcomes*. The task force will develop a ten-year plan and funding strategy to address and modernize systemic problems that impede the performance of the judicial system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain appropriations. Costs associated with HM 13 will primarily be related to the time it will take our staff to serve on the task force.

LOPD staff spend dozens of hours per month attending various task forces, commissions, working groups, and criminal justice coordinating councils in judicial districts statewide. Many of the staff attending these meetings are leadership attorneys, experts in their fields, who carry significant caseloads in addition to their leadership duties. These meetings, while important, take up time that is critical to preparing cases, representing clients at trial, and performing management duties.

A leadership attorney, making \$69.62/hour (with benefits) who spends 10 hours a month from March through November on the mission of the task force will cost the agency \$7.7 thousand in staff time, or 110 hours.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The goals of the memorial are significant. The task force is to establish a planning and oversight body to integrate local planning into a state-level modernization plan – which needs to be monitored for 10 years – as well as establish processes to update position description throughout the justice system, ensure educational curriculums and methods are up to date, be involved at the judicial level in the planning of behavioral health services, define standardized data elements to analyze system performance, establish career paths for system employees “with linkage to the state college system,” and recommend legislation for the next legislative session in 2027. Additionally, the task force should submit a report to the interim Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committees in November of this year and by early January 2027 to the governor and legislature.

The goals of this task force are significant and extremely weighty. They cross many specialized

areas including human resources, education, data analysis and collection, and healthcare. Notably, there are already bodies doing lots of this work – like the Health Care Authority’s Behavioral Health Reform Executive Committee and regional planning meetings for behavioral health, internal HR department, various data work groups, including groups coordinated by NM Tech and the Sentencing Commission, the Sentencing Commission itself, criminal Justice Coordinating Committees, etc. The goals of this task force are actively considered by these groups. These groups can reference the policy report from the LFC and work to address the findings.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The creation of additional task forces and other groups strains LOPD staff who carry large workloads and management responsibility and participate in groups already addressing these issues. More groups could impact LOPD’s case disposition time and rates of sentencing reductions and referrals to treatment. However, convening experts can lead to rational and systemic change, and LOPD would fully participate in this endeavor to examine criminal justice system if the Memorial is adopted.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

As noted above.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None noted.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None noted.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Of note, although representation from the Law Offices of the Public Defender is required by the memorial on the task force, neither public defenders nor the defense bar are listed as one of the agencies from whom information and recommendations can be made from to the task force (.232907.2, page 5, lines 12-21).

ALTERNATIVES

None noted.