

LFC Requester:

Scott Sanchez

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: 28 January 2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HM 13 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Romero **Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico Sentencing Commission (354)
Short Title: 10-Year Criminal Justice Plan **Person Writing:** Douglas Carver
Title: _____ **Phone:** 505-239-8362 **Email:** dhmcarver@unm.edu

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:

HM 13 requests that the LFC convene a task force to develop a ten-year plan and funding strategy to address modernization and systemic problems in the New Mexico criminal justice system that interfere with system performance, public safety, and equal justice under the law. The task force would establish a planning and oversight strategy to elaborate and monitor implementation of the plan; create a funding strategy to support the plan; and identify critical first legislative actions responsive to key critical issues.

The task force would be made up of variety of stakeholders within the criminal justice system and interested citizens, with a cap of 30 members. Though the language in the memorial is not clear, it seems that members of the task force would be selected through an application process.

The task force's goals would include

- establishing a planning and oversight body to integrate local planning into a state-level modernization plan for the justice system and monitor implementation for at least ten years;
- establishing a process for modernizing justice system position descriptions, educational requirements and staffing adequacy;
- ensuring ongoing updating of all educational curriculum and training methods to national standards and best practices;
- establishing a planning function at the judicial district level to adapt and link state programs to meet local needs and link that planning system to the system established in 2025 for behavioral health services as administered by the AOC;
- identifying work groups and a process to define standardized data elements needed to evaluate system performance at system institutions and for the system as a whole;
- establishing a process to plan for career paths for justice system professionals, with linkage to the state college system; and
- recommending legislation for the 2027 legislative session to address the most immediate needs related to these goals

The task force would be required to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the CCJ interim committee by November 26, 2026, and to the Governor and Legislature by January 5, 2027 for consideration in the next regular Legislative Session.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

It was perhaps an oversight that the New Mexico Sentencing Commission is not mentioned in the memorial. The NMSC's mission is to provide impartial information, analysis, recommendations, and assistance from a coordinated cross-agency perspective with an emphasis on maintaining public safety and making the best use of the state's criminal and juvenile justice resources. The 27 members of the NMSC represent almost all of the entities listed as possible members of the task force, and the NMSC would undoubtedly be called upon to provide information for the task force.

The language of the memorial should probably be amended so that it is clear that members of the task force will be selected through an application process, if that is the intention.

Additionally, the time frame for concluding the work of the task force is quite ambitious. It might be worth considering extending the time frame and suggesting that the (future) Governor consider calling a special session to debate the task force's package of reforms, so they are properly debated instead of being pushed through the churn of a regular Session of the Legislature.

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