

**LFC Requester:**

None

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION****WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO****[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 2-12-26*Check all that apply:***Bill Number:** HM 20Original  Correction Amendment  Substitute **Sponsor:** Rep. Matthew McQueen, Rep  
Tara Lujan, Rep Debra Sarinana,  
Rep. Joanne Ferrary**Agency Name****and Code**

State Land Office - 539

**Number:****Short Title:** ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE  
STUDY GROUP**Person Writing** Sunalei Stewart**Phone:** 505-827-5755 **Email** sstewart@nmslo.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None		
None	None	None		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None			

(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 Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Substitute for House Memorial 20 (HM20) requests the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (“EMNRD”) to create and manage a “Energy Infrastructure Study Group” to examine information and develop recommendations for the development and acceleration of community and utility-scale energy infrastructure in New Mexico. The study group would be tasked with evaluating permitting processes, interagency coordination, public participation practices, and the potential benefits of joining a regional transmission organization. HM20 does not include an appropriation for the associated expenses. The study group would be comprised of sixteen members. EMNRD would appoint all members representing various state agencies and local government associations, including the New Mexico State Land Office (“NMSLO”), as well as other NGO and industry constituencies. Federal representatives would be invited to participate. HM20 also outlines the scope of the study and particular areas the group should examine. HM20 requests the group to present its findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee on or before November 1, 2026.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any fiscal impacts associated with HM20 are expected to be absorbed within existing resources. This may result in minor additional workload and administrative costs, including staff time, meeting coordination, and report preparation.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The State Land Office supports efforts to enhance coordination with regarding the development of energy infrastructure. Bringing all energy stakeholders to the table could prove to be productive.

The Commissioner of Public Lands, through NMSLO, manages approximately nine million surface acres of state trust land on behalf of New Mexico public schools and other public beneficiaries. NMSLO’s legislatively established Office of Renewable Energy currently leases 316,761 acres of land for a total of 87 renewable energy projects, plus thousands of miles of transmission lines. The agency is also a key player with regard to traditional energy infrastructure with regard to both leasing and the issuance of rights-of-way.

Although participation in the study group would be voluntary, HM20 proposes that EMNRD nominates study group members from other agencies, including the NMSLO. With respect to NMSLO representation in the study group, the Commissioner of Public Lands should be authorized to designate a representative to participate in the study group. EMNRD does not have the constitutional authority to directly designate officials who work under the Commissioner of Public Lands, a separate elected executive official from the Governor.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

NM 20 calls for a broad, multi-agency and stakeholder-based study group across state, local, tribal, and federal entities. The effectiveness of the study group will depend on the level of agency engagement, availability of staff resources and may be limited by a very short timeframe.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Some staff time and resources would be required. The NMSLO and other participating agencies would or should designate staff to participate in meetings and contribute expertise. These responsibilities would add to existing workloads but probably would not require additional staffing.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo

#### **AMENDMENTS**

Section A of HM20 should identify the Commissioner of Public Lands by title or authorize the Commissioner to designate a member of NMSLO staff to sit on this study group.