

LFC Requester:

Ismael Torres

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: 1/26/2026

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HR1

Original Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Reps. Andrea Romero & Marianna Anaya

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

Short Title: HOUSE INVESTIGATORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Person Writing Analysis: Van Snow

Phone: 505-645-5980

Email: Fir.request@nmdoj.gov

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: HR1 proposes to create a special committee within the New Mexico House of Representatives to investigate allegations of criminal activity and corruption as they relate to Zorro Ranch.

The committee would consist of two members from each the majority and minority parties of the Legislature and a chair designated by the appointed members. The committee would investigate Zorro Ranch and the related allegations of criminal activity to determine whether legislation or other legislative action is needed to prevent and properly punish crime, protect children and other vulnerable persons, establish sufficient procedures for securing civil justice, ensure proper use and stewardship of public money and resources, and provide for public accountability.

The committee would be empowered to conduct hearings, compel attendance of witnesses, administer oaths and issue subpoenas, and would be authorized to function even after the legislature adjourns, up until December 31, 2026.

The committee would be required to keep records of its work, to furnish an interim report by July 31, 2026, and to furnish a final report to the House of Representatives by December 31, 2026.

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.

None for this agency.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

State legislatures have the general power to investigate matters of public importance. *See, e.g., Gibson v. Florida Legislative Investigation Comm.*, 108 So. 2d 729, 737 (Fla. 1958) (“It has long been recognized that a legislative body has the power to conduct investigations in order to obtain information on subjects of legislation.”). However, the Legislature may not pass a bill of

attainder or deprive parties the due process of law. N.M. Const. art. II, §§ 18-19. Accordingly, the contemplated committee would have to take care when investigating whether identifiable individuals committed crimes or stating that identifiable individuals committed crimes.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None for this agency.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None for this agency.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

A grand jury could investigate potential criminal violations.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None.