

LFC Requester: _____

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: _____ *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB031 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: AS Lopez **Agency Name and Code** CYFD - 690
Short Title: U-VISA CERTIFICATION ACT **Number:** _____
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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: This bill establishes in state statute the federal criteria for U Visa certification and codifies definitions for individuals eligible for U Visa certification; and certification agencies and certifying officials. The definition for certifying agency includes CYFD.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained within this bill. CYFD will absorb any fiscal implications through existing resources. CYFD currently manages the U Visa certification process through its Offices of General Counsel and Advocacy.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill allows qualifying victims of a crime to receive protections allowed by federal law, which in turn supports child and family safety and stability. This bill provides clarity to individuals who have been victims of a crime and to state agencies on compliance with 8 U.S.C. Section 1101(a)(15)(U) and is in alignment with work already performed by CYFD.

This bill also clarifies state law enforcement agencies' responsibilities under 8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(15)(U) when a non-citizen crime victim requests U visa certification, which may grant them legal status in the United States for cooperating with law enforcement. This bill will likely improve safety for the vulnerable populations CYFD serves, including children and families, because it encourages crime victims, especially those without legal status or facing deportation, to report crime and cooperate with investigations, instead of failing to report or cooperate out of fear. It also requires state law enforcement agencies to have a process and to respond to these requests timely, so they are not delayed or ignored due to bias or lack of understanding of the U visa process.

This bill has minimal impact to CYFD, as CYFD already investigates incidents which fall into the bill's definition of "qualifying criminal activity", including child abuse and domestic violence, and has established procedures for reviewing U visa certification requests and providing certification and records.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has no performance measures related to this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD currently manages the U Visa certification process through its Offices of General Counsel and Advocacy. This bill establishes a formal timeline (30 days), requires the agency to send its response via certified mail with copies of supporting paperwork, establish an internal appeals process for denied certifications, and maintain a complete file on any denial issued in anticipation of an appeal. CYFD will absorb the administrative implications of establishing these additional processes through existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None proposed.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None proposed.