

LFC Requester:

Simon, Joseph

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: 1/23/26

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SB 71Original Correction Amendment Substitute Sponsor: Senator GallegosAgency Name
and CodeNumber: 366- PERA

Short

Person Writing Anna WilliamsTitle: PERA CHANGESPhone: 505-259-8489 Email Annae.williams@pera.nm.gov**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:

SB 71 amends the PERA Act [NMSA 1978 10-11-2] to include public safety telecommunicators employed by a municipality or the state in the definition of “municipal police member” and “state police member”. These employee groups are currently covered under a 25-year retirement plan, either Municipal General Coverage Plan 1-5 or State General Member Coverage Plan 3 respectively; The amendment also requires that PERA conduct an election for members currently covered under Municipal General Coverage Plan 1-5 to move into Municipal Police Coverage Plan 5. Lastly, the amendment requires that PERA conduct an election for members covered under State General Member Coverage Plan 3 to move to State Public Safety Member Coverage Plan 1 before January 1, 2027.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

For the year ending June 30, 2025, the State Public Safety plan fund has a funded ratio of 120.6% and the Municipal Police plan has a funded ratio of 69.0%.

PERA received a list of approximately 600 dispatchers; however, the Department of Public Safety has indicated that the actual number could be closer to 1,000. Based on the list of approximately 600, PERA’s actuaries estimated that SB 71 would increase PERA’s unfunded liability by \$20 million.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There have been numerous member groups that have proposed being combined with State Police and Adult Correctional Officer Member Coverage Plan 1 benefits in recent years. The cumulative effect of multiple groups moving into the division is unknown. As benefit levels increase, the incentive to retire earlier may further increase costs.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB 71 will not impact PERA’s performance measures.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

After the required election, PERA will have to make system modifications to its pension administration system to ensure that members are placed under the correct coverage plan.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

There may be differences in the Social Security benefits paid to police officers and dispatchers. This could be further analyzed if PERA possessed complete information.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Public Safety Telecommunicators would continue to be covered under their current coverage plans with the current benefit structure.

AMENDMENTS

None.