

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: 1.26.26

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SB 102Original Correction Amendment Substitute Sponsor: Craig W. BrandtShort Title: SEARCH & RESCUE DOG
DEFINITIONAgency Name and Code: NM Department of Homeland
Security & EmergencyNumber: Management-79500Person Writing: Amber GonzalesPhone: 505-487-6692 Email: Amber.gonzales@dhsem.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(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: Senate Bill 102 amends NMSA 1978, Section 30-18-13, to define “search-and-rescue dog” and to extend existing criminal protections for police dogs, police horses, and fire dogs to include search-and-rescue dogs. The bill increases penalties for willful injury to these animals by elevating offenses involving minor physical injury or pain to a third-degree felony and offenses involving serious physical injury, death, or destruction of the animal to a second-degree felony. Additionally, SB 102 authorizes restitution for veterinary expenses or replacement costs and retains misdemeanor penalties for harassment of protected animals.

Furthermore, SB 102 updates sentencing provisions to reflect the revised felony classifications and requires the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, to submit a written report to the secretary of corrections, criminal court judges, the administrative office of the district attorneys, and the chief public defender detailing average sentence reductions resulting from meritorious deductions for serious violent and nonviolent offenses, no later than October 31 of each year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DHSEM is unaware of the fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Current statute defines a “fire dog” as a dog used by a fire department, special fire district, or the State Fire Marshal’s Office to aid in the detection of flammable materials or the investigation of fires. While SB 102 extends protections to fire dogs and search-and-rescue dogs, the State Fire Marshal’s Office does not currently maintain an established dog program; therefore, DHSEM recommends removing the office from the list of agencies identified as operating such programs.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill strengthens existing legal protections by increasing criminal penalties for the injury or harassment of fire dogs and extending similar protections to search-and-rescue dogs, which may provide additional deterrence during fire investigations and emergency response activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DHSEM does not anticipate any administrative responsibilities arising from this bill. Enforcement and adjudication would continue through existing law enforcement entities.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB 102 extends existing statutory protections to search-and-rescue dogs and increases penalties for injury to public safety animals. These changes may strengthen deterrence while increasing potential impacts on the criminal justice system.

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB 102 is not enacted, search-and-rescue dogs would not receive the same level of statutory protection as other public safety animals, and penalties for injury to these animals would remain lower under current law.

AMENDMENTS