

LFC Requester:	
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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: 1-27-26 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB-103 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Harold Pope **Agency Name and Code:** AODA 264
Short Title: Unlawful Interference with Aircraft **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

Senate Bill 103 amends Section 64-1-22 NMSA 1978 to update and expand the offense of unlawful interference with the flight of an aircraft which was enacted in 1965. The bill includes directing a laser at an aircraft as a form of unlawful interference and establishes enhanced penalties for repeat offenses and for cases resulting in injury to persons on board an aircraft. The bill also repeals Section 64-1-23 NMSA 1978 which was the previous penalty section and incorporates the penalties into 64-1-22 NMSA 1978.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 103 may cause an increase in prosecutions as laser pointers are readily available to consumers and there have been a significant number of incidents in New Mexico of laser strikes on aircraft. Any increased work load for justice partners would likely be minimal as cases are difficult to investigate and prosecute because of the difficulty in identifying the offender. In the event that technology improves that will improve the apprehension of offenders, the enforcement, prosecution and defense costs could rise but likely be absorbed by current fiscal structures.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Bill 103 provides law enforcement and prosecutors with a necessary tool to protect aircraft from risk of laser strikes. Currently no state law exists that adequately addresses this conduct.

According to the FAA there were 10,993 incidents reported nation wide in 2025, (<https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/lasers/laws>) and a news report by KRQE (<https://www.krqe.com/news/new-mexico/nm-sees-slight-decrease-in-incidents-involving-lasers-pointed-at-planes-per-faa-data/>) indicated that 304 incidents occurred in New Mexico in 2024, making New Mexico relatively high in incidents per capita.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

There are currently federal laws prohibiting the same conduct, but they are rarely enforced.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The definition of laser is consistent with the federal and other state definitions.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL Law enforcement and prosecutors will continue to be without an effective tool to protect the public from incidents of laser strikes on aircraft.

AMENDMENTS