

LFC Requester: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**  
**INSTRUCTIONS**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

**[LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV](mailto:LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV)**

*and*

**[DFA@STATE.NM.US](mailto:DFA@STATE.NM.US)**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

*Check all that apply:*

Original  Amendment \_\_\_\_\_  
Correction \_\_\_\_\_ Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Date 1/28/2026

Bill No: SB 157

Sponsor: Sen. Harold Pope & Sen. Jeff Steinborn  
Short Title: Allowing for the Use of Portable Solar Generation Devices  
Agency Name and Code: EMNRD 521  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Writing: Ben Bajema  
Phone: 505-394-2581 Email: Benjamin.bajema@emnrd.nm.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 Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY6</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: SB 157 adds a new section to the New Mexico Public Utility Act that establishes a regulatory framework for portable solar generative devices that have a maximum power output of 1920 watts. The bill exempts portable solar generation devices from interconnection and net-metering requirements, as well as clarifies that such devices are not subject to utility approvals or fees.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Solar energy systems are critical component to New Mexico meeting its climate and clean energy goals, and in building resilience. Portable solar generation devices (also called plug-in or balcony solar) may be an opportunity to increase the amount of electricity generated by solar energy in New Mexico because the simpler requirements and small size of the devices compared to conventional solar projects leads to much lower soft-costs and even DIY installation. The low cost and movability of the devices make them a more accessible option for low-income households and renters to take advantage of solar energy. Based on the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s average electricity usage for New Mexico, and calculations by the Clean Energy States Alliance, eligible devices can generate up to approximately 20% of an average household’s electric usage (US Energy Information Administration, 2024; Paulos, 2026)

The bill would require portable solar devices sold in NM to “be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.” While Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) and the National Electrical Code (NEC) do not yet explicitly address portable solar generation devices, the NEC standards are due to be updated in 2026 (they are updated every three years). Underwriters Laboratories, an NRTL, released a white paper on these devices in December 2025, and have begun offering testing and certification services as of this month (January 2026). Given the availability of these services and the updated standards, the resources needed to comply with the bill’s certification requirement are available.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Refers to and restates the provisions of Section 3-18-32 NMSA 1978.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

N/A

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Utah is currently the only state with a policy to regulate portable solar generation devices. This bill is substantively similar to their policy. These devices are also extremely popular in the European Union.

**ALTERNATIVES****WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

If this bill is not passed, the use of portable solar generation devices will not be exempted or protected from utility fees, permits, and/or interconnection requirements, likely leading to these devices not being available to New Mexicans.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.