

Grand Total	\$0.0	\$1,288.0	\$298.0	\$1,586.0		GF
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(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

Appropriates a total of \$1.3 million to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and \$250,000 for the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) for FY2027 for three components of a statewide awareness and a public service campaign to support the Turquoise, Amber, Brittany, Missing Endangered, and Silver Alert Systems.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DPS is appropriated \$1.0 million to modernize and enhance the statewide operations and systems for turquoise alerts, AMBER alerts, Brittany alerts and silver alerts, as well as endangered persons and missing persons advisories.

Two vendors will be contracted to build out these systems including DPS’s current NCIC Message Switch vendor and a New Mexico-based design and development firm. These contracts will total \$1,000,000, achieving the following:

- Modification of the current NCIC / NM CJIS systems to accommodate tribal data in support of Turquoise Alerts.
- Development of an integrated public-facing web portal and improved alerting system.
- Development of internal systems utilized by DPS staff to maintain the data.
- Hosting the web portal will cost \$10,000 per year starting in FY 2028 going forward.

Two (2) FTEs will be hired at an annual cost of \$288,000 per year including salaries and benefits. Per legislation, a Missing Persons Analyst Tribal Liaison will coordinate tribal and state efforts to improve missing persons alerts, supporting cross-jurisdiction communication, training, technical assistance, and consistent statewide use of alert systems. An IT Application Developer will develop integrations between systems, coordinate work performed by contractors, and work closely with the contractors ensuring the system can be maintained by DPS staff after the initial development. The bill provides funding for FY 2027. DPS will require funding annually for these positions starting in FY 2028.

DPS will require a total annual appropriation of \$298,000 starting in FY 2028 to continue this critical initiative.

The bill references law enforcement training in its title and purpose; however, no appropriation is included for training activities. Consequently, there is no identified direct fiscal impact related to law enforcement training. To the extent training is necessary to effectively implement the system enhancements funded by the bill related costs may need to be absorbed within existing agency resources or addressed through future appropriations.

The absence of a dedicated appropriation for law enforcement training may limit effective implementation of the alert systems and reduce the return on investment of the bill’s appropriations. If training is later determined to be necessary, additional funding requests may be required.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Legislature's focus on strengthening coordination between tribal, state, and local law enforcement in missing persons cases is important, and NMDPS shares that priority. We acknowledge the appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for two full-time positions, including one intended for the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse to serve as a tribal liaison analyst and point of contact.

The Law Enforcement Records Bureau's Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse is extremely busy and currently operating with significant staffing constraints. We recognize the importance of dedicated, consistent communication with tribal governments and tribal law enforcement; however, given the Clearinghouse's broader statewide responsibilities, both for missing persons case coordination and for multiple alert and advisory programs, NMDPS cannot commit an entire analyst position exclusively to a single function without further constraining our ability to meet day-to-day operational needs. We anticipate utilizing this position to support the full range of alert responsibilities NMDPS is tasked with managing, to include Turquoise alerts. While DPS supports all Turquoise Alert efforts, as with other analysts, this position would assist with Turquoise Alerts as part of that broader mission.

It is also important to note that the appropriation is non-recurring. Non-recurring funding creates challenges for hiring and retaining full-time employees, and NMDPS cannot sustain the ongoing costs of these positions beyond the year the funding is allocated without an identified recurring funding source.

Separately, the one million dollars (\$1,000,000) appropriated to modernize and enhance statewide operations and systems for Turquoise Alerts, AMBER Alerts, Brittany Alerts, Silver Alerts, as well as endangered persons and missing persons advisories, is a meaningful step forward. NMDPS can apply these funds toward system improvements that support more efficient intake, coordination, and dissemination of alerts; however, the development and implementation of these enhancements will take time. The effectiveness of these systems will also depend on consistent, timely participation by the agencies that initiate and support these cases, including full cooperation from tribal law enforcement partners in providing complete information, responding promptly to follow-up, and using the statewide processes as intended.

This funding is not a single solution, and it will only achieve its full purpose if tribal, state, and local agencies actively and consistently engage with the tools and procedures that support missing persons response.

The bill title and purpose language reference appropriations for law enforcement training; however, the bill's appropriation sections do not include funding for training, nor do they designate an agency or entity responsible for developing or delivering such training. This inconsistency between the bill's stated purpose and its operative provisions presents a significant issue for clarity and implementation.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB 181 may have impacts in the following areas:

- **Non-recurring funding (1 year):** Limits DPS's ability to hire/retain FTEs and to sustain positions beyond the appropriation period.

- **Position scope and workload alignment:** The missing persons analyst will need to support Clearinghouse core functions and multiple alert/advisory programs; DPS cannot dedicate the role exclusively to a single liaison function without impacting statewide operations.
- **Implementation time for system upgrades:** The \$1M modernization effort will require procurement, development, testing, training, and policy/workflow updates before benefits are realized.
- **Interagency participation requirements:** System improvements and coordination efforts depend on timely, complete information and consistent engagement from partner agencies, including tribal law enforcement.
- **Outreach capacity and ownership:** DPS is not positioned to operate a sustained outreach function; outreach is better housed with the Department of Indian Cultural Affairs, with DPS coordinating to support statewide alert processes.
- **Governance and accountability:** Clarify roles (DPS vs. partner agencies), points of contact, and performance tracking (activation/dissemination timelines, coordination activity) to support consistent statewide implementation.

Although the bill states an intent to support law enforcement training related to the Turquoise, AMBER, Brittany, and Silver Alert systems, the absence of a specific appropriation or defined training framework may limit consistent implementation statewide. Without standardized training, law enforcement agencies may apply alert criteria unevenly, which could affect response times, accuracy of alert activation, and coordination across jurisdictions. This gap may ultimately undermine the bill's stated goal of improving response efficacy and strengthening public trust in the alert systems.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DPS is not positioned administratively to absorb a dedicated liaison and outreach coordinator function within the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse without affecting core operations. The Law Enforcement Records Bureau is already managing significant workload and backlog across missing persons coordination and multiple alert/advisory programs. As written, the legislation would place an undue burden on the Bureau by diverting limited capacity from essential, time-sensitive duties.

New Mexico State Police (NMSP) may need to manage staggered implementation or transitional processes to ensure continuity of operations during system upgrades. Other law enforcement agencies, to include tribal agencies, will be required to update internal protocols, training materials, and interagency agreements.

The Department of Public Safety may be implicitly expected to develop or coordinate law enforcement training without explicit statutory direction, funding, or staffing. The bill does not clarify which entity would be responsible for creating training curricula, delivering training, or determining which agencies or personnel must be trained. This lack of clarity could create administrative uncertainty and place additional, unfunded responsibilities on DPS or other law enforcement partners, potentially diverting resources from existing operational priorities.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

No conflict, duplication, companionship, or relationship exist for this bill.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

No technical issues for this bill.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

There is a substantive inconsistency between the bill's title and purpose language and its operative provisions. While the bill references appropriations for law enforcement training, the appropriation sections do not allocate funds for training activities, identify a training provider, or define the scope of training. As written, the bill does not operationalize its stated intent to support law enforcement training, leaving a key policy component unaddressed.

ALTERNATIVES

None for DPS.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo will remain

AMENDMENTS

The bill could be amended to place the tribal liaison and outreach coordinator function within the Department of Indian Cultural Affairs, along with recurring funding to support a full-time position. This structure would better align outreach and tribal engagement responsibilities with the agency best positioned to lead them, while maintaining close coordination with DPS and partner law enforcement. Separately, providing DPS the \$1,000,000 for software modernization would remain highly beneficial and would strengthen statewide alert operations and systems for Turquoise, AMBER, Brittany, Silver, and related missing/endangered persons advisories.

In addition, the bill could be amended to include a specific appropriation for law enforcement training related to these alert systems and to clearly designate the agency responsible for delivering the training. Amendments could also define the scope and objectives of the training—such as activation criteria, interagency coordination procedures, and culturally appropriate engagement with tribal communities—and clarify whether participation is mandatory or optional, including which agencies or personnel would be required to participate.