

LFC Requester:	Scott Sanchez
-----------------------	----------------------

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS – 2026 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: 2/5/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB259 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

		Agency Name and Code	
Sponsor:	Sen. William E. Sharer, Sen. Crystal Brantley	Number:	790 – Department of Public Safety
Short Title:	CREATE NEW THREATS AGAINST LAW	Person Writing	Kent Augustine
		Phone:	505-709-5264
		Email:	kent.augustine@dps.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(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	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(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 259 (SB-259) creates extra protections for police officers and their loved ones against threats of violence or the sharing of their addresses, location or contact information.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal implications to DPS.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB-259 creates two distinct offenses, one felony and, one misdemeanor—designed to safeguard law enforcement officers and their families. LERB will ensure these offenses are coded and tracked separately from existing statutes related to threats, harassment, stalking, or intimidation. Accurate classification is essential to maintain the integrity of criminal history records and ensure proper reporting for background checks and law enforcement purposes.

The creation of new offences under SB 259 may require changes to the Inspection of Public Records Act, NMS 1978, Sections 14-2-1 to 14-2-12, because information such as names of all persons involved, addresses, and phone numbers are included in police reports. This would involve creating a narrow exception to explicitly exempt officers and their families' information, including home addresses and contact information, for instances where SB259 applies.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The ease with which individuals can harass or intimidate officers or their families via the internet and social media have increased the need for additional laws to be considered. This bill addresses some of those issues and also provides protection for the release of an officer's personal information. That type of harassment has seen a drastic increase in recent years and it could be helpful to have a law to specifically address it.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of SB-259 will require LERB to:

- Add the new offenses to internal coding and classification systems
- Provide guidance to law enforcement agencies on proper reporting procedures
- Train staff to ensure accurate entry and management of the new offense categories

These activities are routine when new criminal statutes are enacted and do not necessitate additional personnel or organizational changes.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

No conflict, duplication, companionship or relationship to DPS.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

No technical issues to DPS.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Because the bill covers local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement officers, DPS and LERB may get records about officers from outside New Mexico. It will be important to label and document these offenses clearly to keep criminal history records consistent. The misdemeanor for sharing personal information could involve online activity, which might complicate the matter.

ALTERNATIVES

Increase penalties under existing threat or harassment laws instead of creating new crimes just for law enforcement officers. However, creating separate offenses gives clearer guidance in the law to help make charging and criminal records more consistent.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo will remain.

AMENDMENTS

None at this time.