

LFC Requester:

Lance Chilton

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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: 02/12/2026

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SM 27Original  Correction Amendment  Substitute 

Sponsor: Jeff Steinborn, Angel M.  
Charley, Benny Shendo, Jr.  
Shannon Pinto, and Harold Pope

Short IMPACT OF RADIATION  
EXPOSURE

Agency Name  
and CodeAging and Long-Term Services  
Department - 6400

Number:

Person Writing

Julie SanchezPhone: 505-629-2069Email Julie.sanchez@altsd.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

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

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
NA	NA	NA	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
<b>Total</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA		

(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 Memorial 27 acknowledges harm to New Mexico downwinders and uranium workers from radiation exposure due to the Trinity nuclear test and uranium mining. Congress has expanded the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to provide \$100,000 payments to eligible New Mexicans or their survivors, with a December 31, 2027, filing deadline. The memorial requests four state departments (Health, Aging and Long-Term Services, Veterans' Services, and Indian Affairs) to collaborate with tribal governments and community organizations to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SM 27 would require ALTSD to revise current or create new outreach material as well as development personnel training, and coordination of community education events. Outreach at events could complement the current ALTSD calendar, although training current staff would need to happen before engagement. Senior Centers in the impacted area could provide a free place for outreach and engagement.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

SM 27 presents possible programmatic and operational challenges for ALTSD by requesting the department to collaborate in a statewide outreach, education, and technical assistance campaign to help eligible New Mexico residents apply for federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) benefits before the December 31, 2027, deadline. While RECA benefits and outreach are not a regular part of the business conducted by the department. ALTSD does operate a statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) that could provide needed information and referrals to impacted communities.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

SM 27 creates an opportunity for ALTSD to serve aging populations facing complex federal processes but also presents risks if performance expectations are unclear or if success is measured solely by the number of claims filed rather than the quality of assistance provided. Tracking may become a challenge as new joint performance metrics may need to be created to show outcomes from the coordinated effort. The 22-month deadline creates significant performance pressure, and it will require rapid program development and implementation without the benefit of pilot testing or gradual rollout.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SM 27 would require ALTSD to work with other state agencies to: establish a new interagency coordination mechanisms with the Department of Health, Veterans' Services Department, and Indian Affairs Department; develop partnerships with tribal governments, community-based organizations, and local governments; train staff on RECA eligibility requirements and application procedures; and ensure compliance with federal privacy requirements while sharing information across agencies. The department may need to designate staff to manage RECA-related activities, develop standard operating procedures, and establish referral protocols. Given ALTSD's existing relationships with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), senior centers, and tribal aging programs

throughout the state, the department has administrative infrastructure that could be leveraged, but it would require some adaptation.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

No known conflict or duplication.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

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

If SM 27 is not enacted, eligible New Mexico residents, particularly aging downwinders and former uranium workers, may not receive critical information about their eligibility for \$100,000 in federal compensation before the December 31, 2027, deadline. Many aging adults in rural and tribal communities lack access to information about federal programs and face significant barriers in navigating complex application processes, meaning that without coordinated state assistance, federal compensation funds designated for New Mexico residents would go unclaimed.

#### **AMENDMENTS**