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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Memorial 65

SHORT TITLE: Health and Firearm Safety Task Force

SPONSOR: Torres-Velasquez and Herndon

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/17/2026 **ANALYST:** Hilla

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
DOH	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact		Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Department of Health

Department of Public Safety

Public Education Department

Administrative Office of the Courts

Children, Youth and Families Department

Indian Affairs Department

Because of the short timeframe between the introduction of this bill and its first hearing, LFC has yet to receive analysis from state, education, or judicial agencies. This analysis could be updated if that analysis is received.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Memorial 65

House Memorial 65 (HM65) creates a task force with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Public Safety (DPS) to conduct research on health and firearm safety to make recommendations to reduce firearm violence in the state. The task force, in collaboration with various health and human services and public safety entities, is requested to report its findings to the interim Legislative Health and Human Services and the Courts, Corrections and Justice committees by September 15, 2026.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain appropriations and are not enforceable as state law. The task force requested in this memorial is within the normal operations of the agencies involved and is unlikely to result in significant costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to a report published by DOH in 2025 based on 2023 data, New Mexico ranks number five in the nation for gun violence-related deaths, with the age adjusted firearm death rate in New Mexico at 25.3 per 100,000 residents, of which 59 percent of these firearm deaths are from suicide. Between 2019 and 2023, firearms are the second leading cause of death for youths ages 1-18 years old in the state. Additional data from DOH states that firearm deaths and injuries cost residents of the state approximately \$5.81 billion per year, and 38 percent of residents own a firearm that is loaded and unlocked in homes with children under the age of 18 years old living in the same residence.

In this current fiscal year, DPS transferred \$1.3 million to DOH from the federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program grant funded by the United States Department of Justice. The federal grant started in 2022 and aims to implement state gun crisis intervention, including extreme risk firearm protection orders (ERFPO). ERFPOs may be used to help someone who is in crisis from accessing firearms and harming themselves or others. In New Mexico, only a law enforcement officer or an attorney with the district attorney's office may file a petition to issue an ERFPO. Since becoming law in 2020, 188 ERFPOs have been granted by New Mexico courts. DOH plans to use the \$1.3 million to train regional health promoters on ERFPOs, contracting a practicing lawyer who specialized in ERFPOs to provide free legal consultation with residents, and to implement a multimedia statewide campaign on ERFPOs to educate the public.

EH/ct/dw