



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee

October 5, 2026

PRESENTERS

Sylvia M. Serna

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Julie M. Gallardo

Acting General Counsel

Fabian Valdez

**Director, New Mexico
Law Enforcement Academy**

Department of Public Safety — Cabinet Department Structure

Created under the Executive Reorganization Act · NMSA 1978, Chapter 9, Article 19 — Department of Public Safety



STATUTORY BASIS — The Executive Reorganization Act created the Department of Public Safety and placed the Law Enforcement Academy within it as a required division.

WHY THEY SIT AT THE DIVISION LEVEL — The Board and the Council lack an enabling statute, the statute that lets an entity stand up as its own cabinet department.

Roles and Responsibilities

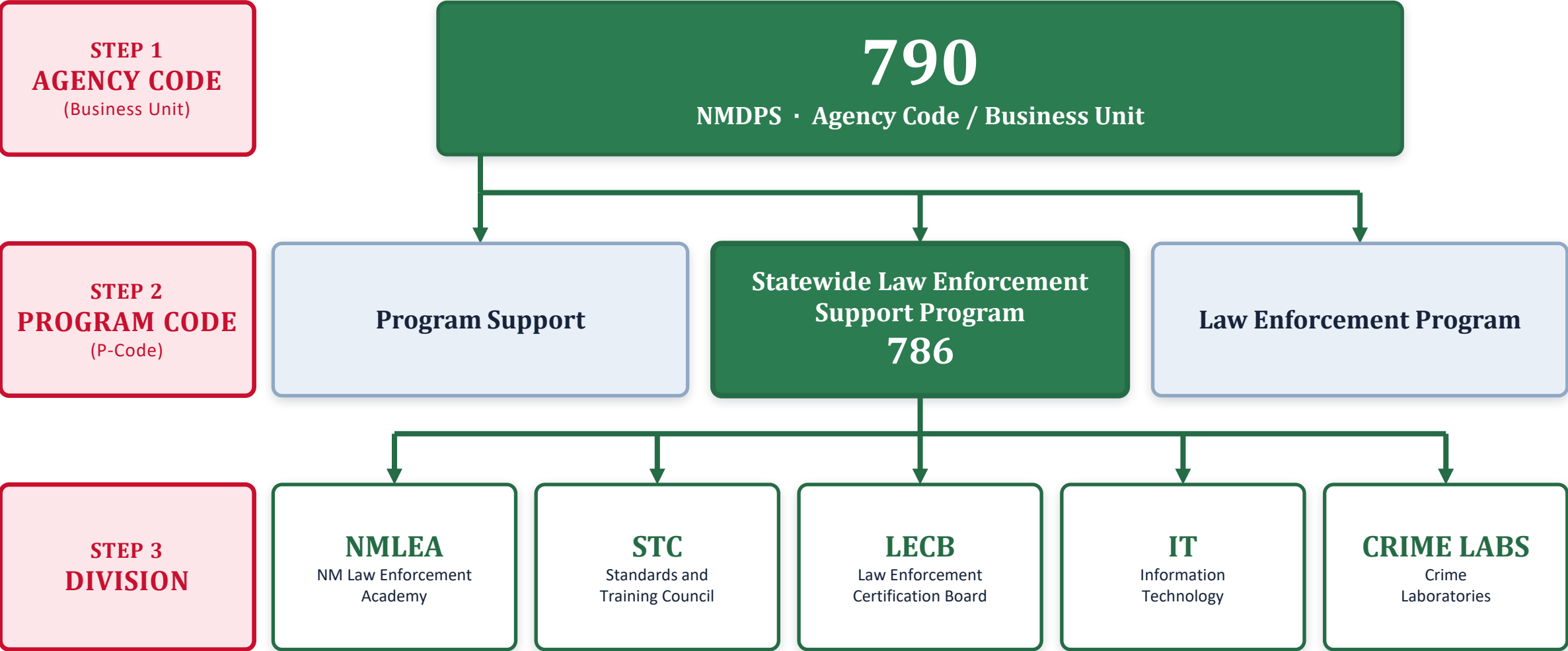
Council · Academy Director · Certification Board

	Standards and Training Council SETS THE STANDARDS	NM Law Enforcement Academy Director RUNS THE TRAINING	Law Enforcement Certification Board DECIDES WHO IS CERTIFIED
Training standards <i>What officers must be taught</i>	Develops the training requirements, curricula and performance standards for officers and telecommunicators at every level. Sets instructor qualifications and courses of instruction.	Implements the standards and programs the Council adopts, including basic and in-service training. Evaluates Academy courses each year and makes the adjustments needed.	None
The Academy <i>Who runs it and staffs it</i>	Sets the standards and programs the Academy is required to deliver.	Serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Academy and employs the personnel needed to operate it.	None
Certification <i>Completion is not the same as certification</i>	Establishes the training requirements a candidate must satisfy before certification.	Issues certificates of completion to graduates of approved basic training programs who meet the qualifications.	Ratifies the certificates, then issues and renews the professional certification — the credential to work as an officer or telecommunicator.
Discipline and investigations <i>Taking a certification away</i>	None	None	Denies, suspends or revokes certification for just cause. Conducts investigations, administers oaths and subpoenas people about an officer's fitness to serve.
Rulemaking <i>Who writes the rules</i>	Adopts rules on training, certification qualifications, school resource officers and telecommunicator training.	Implements the Council's standards and requirements; does not adopt rules.	Adopts rules implementing and enforcing both Training Acts, except the provisions assigned to the Council.

Summarized from NMSA 1978, §§ 29-7-3, 29-7-4, 29-7-4.3 and 29-7-5. Plain-language summary — not a substitute for the statute.

DPS Budget Structure of LECB and STC

NMDPS · from agency creation down to the division that spends the money



Funding and FTE are budgeted at this level

Dollars and full-time employees are both allocated division by division, following exactly where HB2 directs them — not at the agency or program level.

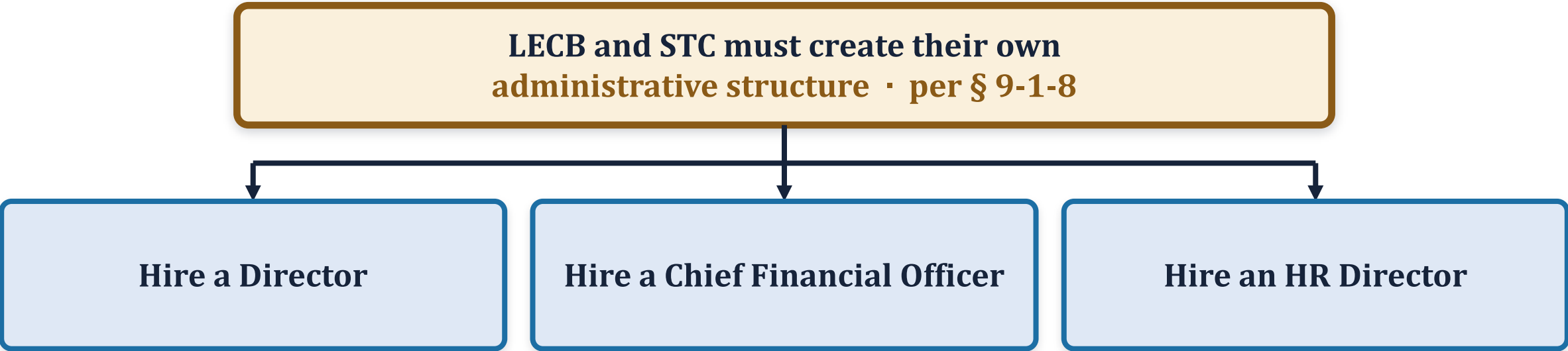
For LECB and STC to Become a Cabinet Department

Two things have to happen

FIRST — WHAT THE LEGISLATURE MUST DO



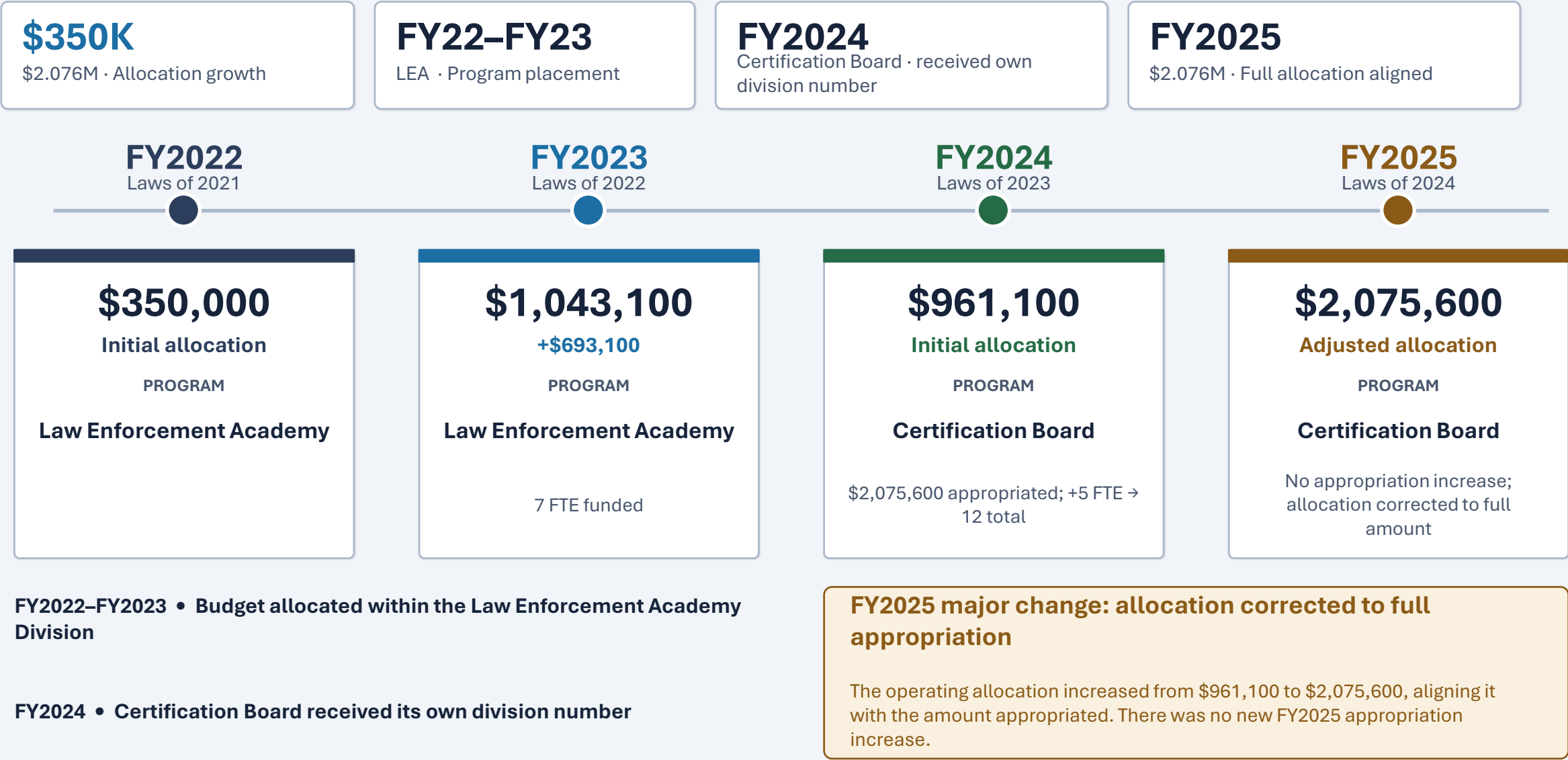
SECOND — WHAT LECB AND STC MUST STAND UP



NOTE: Each of these functions is provided by the Department today. A standalone department stands them up and funds them itself.

Certification Board Funding & Staffing Timeline

Annual allocation, program placement, and the transition to a dedicated Certification Board budget.



Standards & Training Council Funding Timeline

Authority, initial FY2024 allocation, and continuation of the established budget.

\$1.325M
Initial FY2024 allocation

FY2024
STC budget established

11 FTE
Funded with FY2024 expansion

FY2025–FY2026
\$1.325M allocation maintained



FY2024 • STC funding established within the Statewide Law Enforcement Support Program

FY2025–FY2026 • No additional STC-specific appropriation identified in the laws reviewed; allocation remained \$1,325,100.

Authority / budget establishment

Laws 2023, Ch. 86 (authority) • Laws 2023, Ch. 210 / HB 2 (FY24 budget)

Proposed Training Focus Areas

Where the proposed work sits inside the training levels the statute names

§ 29-7-4 (B) authorizes training at all levels: basic · field training officer programs · advanced · specialized · instructor — plus professional development programs

BASIC & IN-SERVICE

Mandatory In-Service Training and Officer Safety

Keeps every certified officer current on required hours and core officer-safety skills.

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER

Field Training, Recruitment, Retention and Officer Wellness

Strengthens the FTO pipeline and the conditions that keep officers on the job.

ADVANCED

Force Science and Advanced Operational Training

Advanced operational instruction grounded in current force science.

SPECIALIZED

Investigative and Specialized Law Enforcement Training

Investigative disciplines and specialized assignments beyond basic certification.

INSTRUCTOR

General Instructor Development and Continuing Education

Builds and maintains the instructor cadre every standard depends on.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Supervisory, Management and Executive Leadership Development

Prepares first-line supervisors through executives for command responsibility.

IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE PLANNING
Instructor capacity, facilities, scheduling and funding determine which of these areas move first and at what pace. Sequencing is set with the Council, consistent with the standards it adopts.

PRELIMINARY — These are proposed focus areas developed for planning purposes only. They are not finalized course offerings and do not represent approved commitments.

Initiatives in Progress

NM Law Enforcement Academy · three of many efforts underway

CNM LEGAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

214

Learners trained across 8 cohorts

68

Hours — redesigned legal curriculum

15–20

Agencies represented in every cohort

With CNM and CNM Ingenuity, delivered at the Academy since January 2026. Online modules and interactive delivery, already adapted for telecommunicators. State GRO funded.

STATEWIDE COMPLIANCE OUTREACH

5

Regional host sites

6

Compliance topic areas per session

Nov 12

Final fall session — Gallup, NM

Host sites: Ruidoso, Roswell, Silver City, Las Vegas and Gallup, NM. ACADIS and compliance training taken to the regions instead of asking agencies to come to Santa Fe, with virtual seats where feasible.

REALITY-BASED TRAINING FACILITY

January 2027

Expected completion

\$18,078,263

Completion cost — capital outlay

15,000 sq ft

Statewide multi-agency training hub

Scenario and virtual-reality training built around de-escalation, decision-making and non-lethal techniques. Serves municipal, county, tribal and state agencies.

WHERE EACH ONE STANDS

The CNM partnership is delivering now. Statewide outreach is underway, with three more regional sessions through November. The Reality-Based Training Facility is under construction for January 2027.

Our Commitment

New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy

The Academy and its Director are committed to working alongside the Law Enforcement Certification Board and the Standards and Training Council, and to supporting the work each of them is charged with carrying out.

The Academy does not exist apart from its partners and its stakeholders. Nothing it delivers is accomplished alone.

Each entity holds a distinct role under the law. Those distinctions matter — and the statute should make them clear for all of us.

THE SAME MISSION

Whatever structure the Legislature determines, our obligation does not change — to improve and to provide dedicated resources to the men and women who serve in law enforcement across New Mexico.



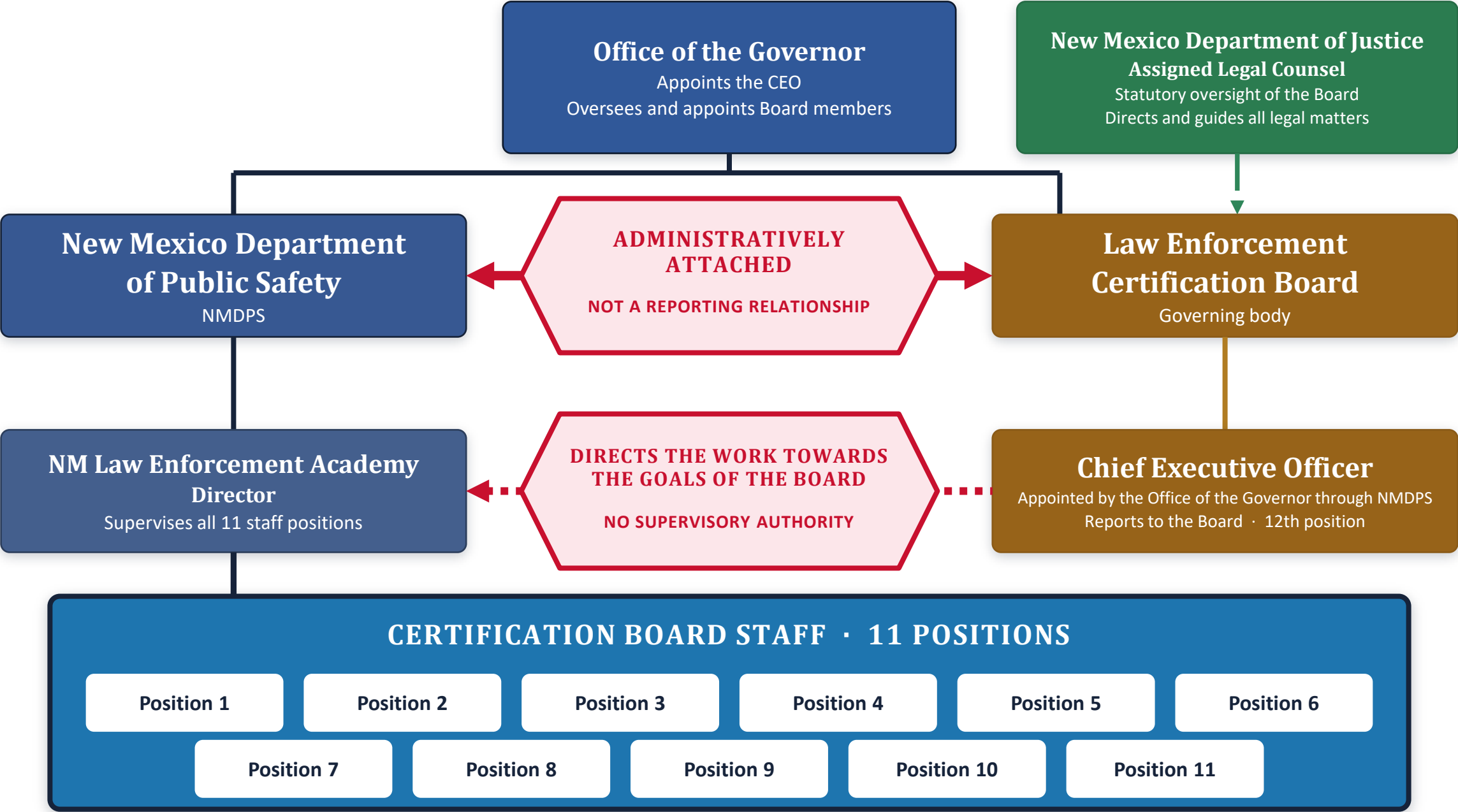
Thank You

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Law Enforcement Certification Board

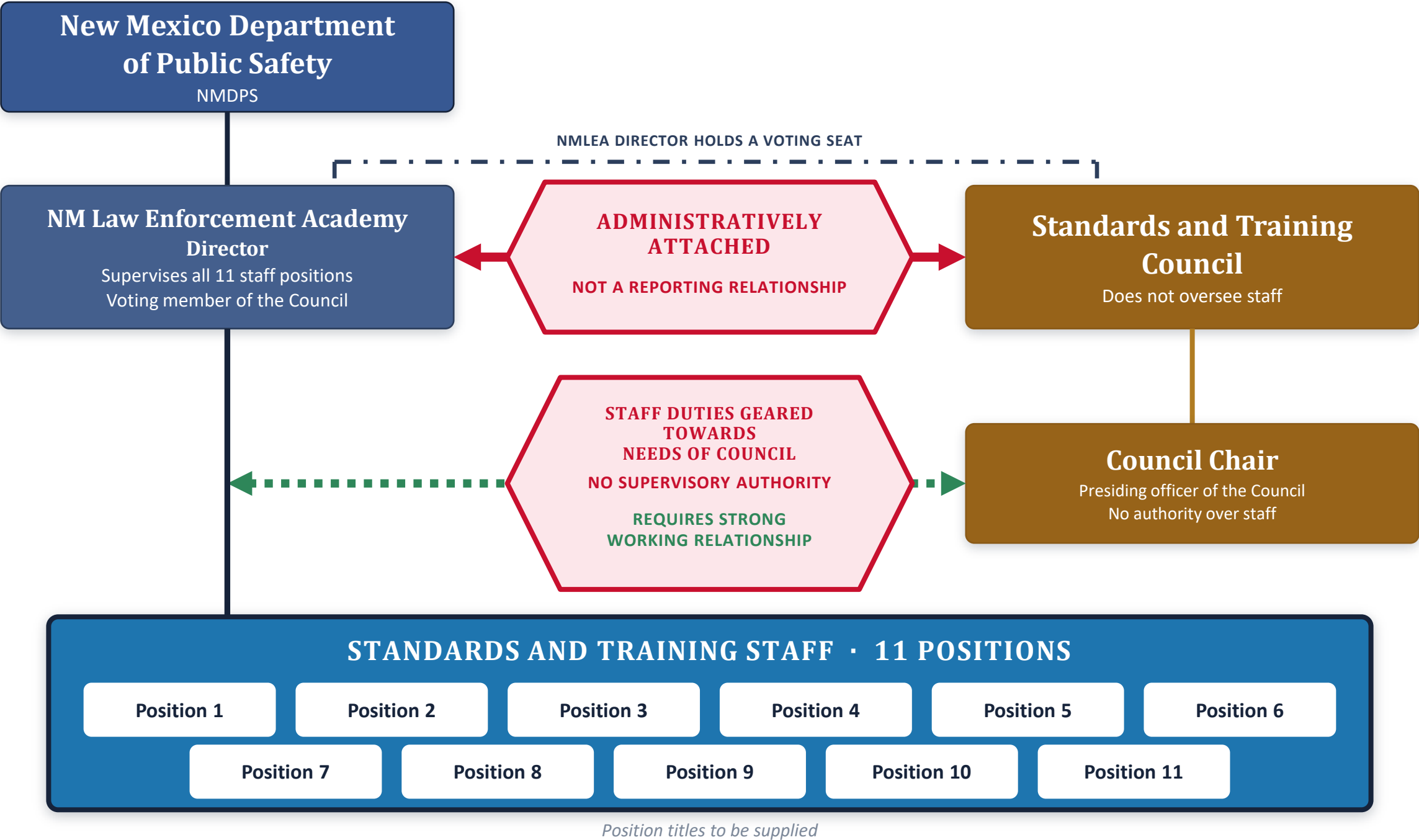
Organizational Structure · State of New Mexico



Position titles to be supplied

Standards and Training Council

Organizational Structure · State of New Mexico



Organizational Relationships

State of New Mexico

