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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/11/21

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Orders Signed by Probate Judges SB 352

ANALYST Dick-Peddie

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>District Court Operating Budgets</b>		Minimal positive	Minimal positive	Minimal positive	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Senate Bill 134

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)  
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 352 permits a probate judge to sign orders or other documents related to probate court matters from any location in the county in which the probate judge serves. The bill also repeals current statute that provides a penalty for failure to hold court or keep clerk's office at county seat.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Administrative Office of the Courts predicts that enacting Senate Bill 352 may result in minimal cost savings to district courts, which have authority to hear cases when probate judges are absent.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Allowing probate judges to sign orders and documents from any location in the county could allow more remote work, mitigating health and safety risks associated with the Covid-19 public health emergency.

**RELATIONSHIP**

Senate Bill 352 relates to Senate Bill 134, which allows visiting probate judges to conduct probate court in the event of the permanent judge's absence or incapacitation.

ADP/al