

LFC Requester:

Emily Hilla

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2024 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.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}

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date January 23, 2024

Bill No: SB 21

Sponsor: Senator Leo Jaramillo  
Short Title: Local Firefighter Recruitment

Agency Name and Code Number: Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department - 521

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
N/A	\$35,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: SB 21 is a duplicate of HB 88.  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act – Unknown.

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 21 (SB 21) appropriates \$35,000,000 to the Department of Finance and Administration to distribute to state and local fire departments for firefighter recruitment in fiscal years 2025 through 2027. The bill requires the Department of Finance and Administration to develop criteria for the distribution of funds. The funds may go to state and local fire departments, including volunteer fire departments, and may be used to recruit firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funds will be available to state and local fire departments for recruitment and will provide an incentive for employee retention. A secondary fiscal implication is that recruitment and retention of firefighters will enable local fire departments to expand their wildland fire response capacity. The improved local department capacity means more trained firefighters to respond quickly to new wildfires. If wildfires are suppressed while small, the state will spend less to manage the wildfire and protect lives and property.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SB 21 will improve statewide and local firefighter and emergency medical technician recruitment. State and local fire departments will be able to access resources to promote their positions and to offer recruitment incentives to qualified applicants. This will lower the vacancy rates within departments and boost capacity to protect life and property.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Performance of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division will improve if this bill is enacted. The Division is responsible for wildland fire suppression and is assisted by local fire departments in initial and extended wildfire attack. The wildland fire response is authorized under Joint Powers Agreements and coordinated through Resource Mobilization Plans. The bill will improve the capacity of local fire departments to develop wildland fire qualifications, and that in turn will bolster the wildfire response capacity available within New Mexico.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None for EMNRD.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

SB 21 is identical to HB 88.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

N/A

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

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

State and local fire departments will continue to struggle with recruitment and retention of qualified firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.