

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Eric Chenier</b>
-----------------------	---------------------

**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** 01/24/24

**Bill No:** SB 166

**Sponsor:** Harold Pope & Eleanor Chavez  
**Short Title:** Homelessness Reduction Division

**Agency Name and Code** Department of Veterans' Services 67000  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing** D. Mourning Brown / D. Lucero  
**Phone:** 505-372-9035 **Email** Danelle.lucero@dvs.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis:

An appropriation to a new section of the Health Care Authority Department Act would create the Homelessness Reduction Division. The homelessness reduction division would lead the state’s comprehensive efforts related to homelessness prevention.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

In 2023, there were 67,495 homeless Veterans. Veterans comprise 10.6% of all homeless in the U.S. and are twice as likely to become homeless versus those who didn’t serve in the military. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Homeless Programs Office assists Veterans and their families in obtaining permanent and sustainable housing with access to high-quality health care and supportive services. The vision is to end homelessness among all Veterans and their families by using evidence-based, innovative practices and partnerships that provide access to permanent housing and deliver other critical services. With full support from Veteran service organizations across the U.S. and in New Mexico, this vision can be realized by making an end to homelessness among Veterans a top priority; leading with a Housing First approach; reaching underserved Veterans; ensuring the delivery of quality supportive services; and increasing the supply of and access to affordable housing.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services (NMDVS) collaborates with nonprofit organizations around the state that address Veteran homelessness. NMDVS participates in homeless outreach events, Point-in-Time Counts of homeless veterans, and supports partnerships with Veteran service organizations. NMDVS contracts for direct-service provisions and is a liaison between homeless Veterans, the VA and Veteran service providers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The agency does not foresee any cost implications to synchronizing the states efforts in combating Veteran homelessness.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

NMDVS does not anticipate any conflicts or duplication of services due to this Bill’s intent to synchronize and streamline all state services. Most important is the need for increased and sustainable

programs for homeless New Mexicans.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES:** None noted by reviewer.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The need for continued collaboration cannot be overstated. With few homeless programs and the lack of affordable housing throughout the state, including rural areas, new partnerships must be developed, and ongoing partnerships strengthened. Defining “homelessness” is an important effort so as to alleviate interpretation issues that may arise.

**ALTERNATIVES:** None noted by reviewer.

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

Homelessness would remain an underserved, underfunded, insurmountable problem in the state, due to the increasing numbers of citizens requiring services.

**AMENDMENTS**