

LFC Requester:

Lance Chilton

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO****[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://agencyanalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}***Date Prepared:** 02/21/2025*Check all that apply:***Bill Number:** SB 474Original xx ☐ Correction ☐Amendment ☐ Substitute ☐**Sponsor:** Anthony L. Thornton
Short Title: Streamline Certain Adoption Processes**Agency Name and Code Number:**Office of Family Representation and Advocacy - 68000**Person Writing** Farra R. Fong**Phone:** 505-537-3903 **Email** Farra.fong@ofra.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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: the bill creates a new definition under the Adoptions Act for “prenatal abandonment” and includes this new category under the section allowing the court to terminate parental rights with respect to a child who has been “prenatally abandoned” by an acknowledged or alleged father.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None noted. This bill makes no appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

If enacted, this bill would streamline the termination of parental rights process for fathers who “prenatally abandon” their children.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

It is unknown how many terminations of parental rights involve “prenatal abandonment”. Theoretically, this bill could expedite termination of parental rights in these cases, allowing children to be freed for adoption and accelerating permanence for these children.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

There is another bill currently moving through the legislative process, SB417, that changes the definitions of “acknowledged” and “alleged” fathers. It is unknown if the intent of this bill would be impacted by those changes.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS