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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:
Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date 2025-01-22
Bill No: HB24

Sponsor: Garcia, Miguel P **Agency Name and Code** NMHED
Short COMMUNITY **Number:** _____
Title: GOVERNANCE **Person Writing** Kovnat, Peter
Phone: 5054692395 **Email** peter.kovnat@hed.nm.

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

House Bill 24 (HB24) amends the Community Governance Attorney Act to realign the powers and duties of the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED), the Community Governance Attorney Commission, and the University of New Mexico School of Law to reflect the manner in which the Community Governance Attorney Program is carried out.

HB24 removes the prohibition on state funds being used to pay for fifty (50%) percent of the community governance attorney's salary for the first two years of employment as a community governance attorney. The bill also adds state agencies as potential employers in the Community Governance Attorney Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB24 does not have an appropriation, however, NMHED receives a recurring General Fund appropriation of ninety-six thousand dollars (\$96,000) to the University of New Mexico School of Law to administer the program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Currently, New Mexico Legal Aid is the sole employer approved to employ community governance attorneys for the law's two-year work requirement. New Mexico Legal Aid recently

laid off more than sixty (60) employees, including attorneys, and one community governance attorney. Without removing the prohibition on state funding being used and broadening the possible employer pool, the Community Governance Attorney Act may no longer be viable.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The realignment of the powers and duties among the NMHED, the Community Governance Attorney Commission, and the University of New Mexico School of Law will not alter the current administration of these powers and duties. However, it does present distinctions from the manner in which these powers and responsibilities are delineated in the Community Governance Attorney Act.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The statement in the title 'ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYING AGENCIES TO PROVIDE FIFTY PERCENT OF ATTORNEY SALARIES IN NONSTATE FUNDS,' could be misleading. The requirement to cover fifty percent (50%) of attorney salaries remains intact, however, HB24 removes the prohibition on using non-state funds for this purpose.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

To ensure the continuation of the Community Governance Attorney Program, it may be necessary to further expand the potential employer pool.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB24 were not passed, then the Community Governance Attorney Program may be discontinued.

AMENDMENTS

N/A

