

LFC Requester:	Noah Montano
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

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: 1/16/25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 111 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Marian Matthews **Agency Name and Code Number:** NM Governor's Commission on Disability; 645
Person Writing: Lisa McNiven
Short Title: Search for Missing Qualified Service Animal **Email:** Lisa.mcniven@gcd.nm.gov
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A			

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
N/A				

(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	No Fiscal Impact	No Fiscal Impact	No Fiscal Impact			

(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:

House Bill 111 request New Mexico's congressional delegation support legislation to require first responders at emergency situations who are made aware of a missing qualified service animal to make a reasonable effort to search for the qualified service animal.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This house bill does not include requested funds and will not directly impact the state budget.

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

Disasters affect service animals in New Mexico, and one such incident occurred in Albuquerque in August of 2024. The service animal was lost due to a disaster that occurred with a neighborhood pipe that broke which flooded the area but began with a loud sound that spooked the service animal who broke away from its owner. This caused the inability of the owner who is blind to not be able to find her guide dog, and the first responders first responsibilities are the safety of "humans" and the community at large.

Service Animals who have been trained to **provide assistance** are an extension of humans and need to be rescued to continue to provide their specific training for humans they serve. The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) states that Service Animals are not pets but trained to perform a set of tasks that provides independence to individuals with a disability. The training involved in an animal can be upwards of **10,000 dollars** and can take up to **two years** to train based on the needs and type of disability.

The ADA states that service animals need to go where their owner goes, and if the owner is separated from their service animal it makes it harder for owner to be independent at a shelter, hospital or other rescue sites due to a disaster. Every effort should be made to keep the owner and their service animal together. The result of this bill is a response to the loss of the service animal by the owner as the dog was not found until two weeks after the disaster, and he died of complications as a result.

First Responders will need training and support to understand the implications of the ADA's service animal act, and to receive training on how to locate, rescue and reunite the service animal to their owner. A training curriculum would likely need to be developed as there are no such trainings found in New Mexico, other than what is offered by the Governor's Commission on

Disability regarding general Service Animals and Emergency Preparedness from the perspective of people with disabilities.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The performance of this would need to be evaluated with first responders statewide to determine effectiveness of such trainings, to strengthen the awareness the ADA, Service Animals and Emergency Preparedness information and resources. This could be done through the Disability Access and Functional Needs (DAFN) coalition to do an evaluation and provide a report for further support and understanding of the needs. Training and support to first responders would be essential towards the rescue of a service animals per their owner's request so that reunification could occur.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This statute if passed may need to be sent to all law enforcement agencies in the state, with recommendations to contact the Governor's Commission on Disability for further support and trainings.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

No other bills conflict, duplicate or is a companion to HB 111.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Rescue of service animals in a flood, fire, earthquakes, other storms may not occur. Owners will be without their service animals who provide a set of tasks that provides independence, and this would conflict with the spirit of the ADA.

AMENDMENTS

N/A