

LFC Requester:

Helen Gaussoin

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Date Prepared: February 3, 2025

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 208

Original X Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Representatives Rebecca
Dow, Harlan Vincent, Jack
Chatfield, Mark Murphy,
Mark Duncan

**Agency Name and
Code Number:** 305 – New Mexico
Department of Justice

Person Writing

**Short
Title:** Hunting & Fishing License
Voter Registration

Analysis: Michael J. Thomas
Phone: 505-537-7676
Email: legisfir@nmdoj.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: N/A

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

This analysis is neither a formal Opinion nor an Advisory Letter issued by the New Mexico Department of Justice. This is a staff analysis in response to a committee or legislator’s request. The analysis does not represent any official policy or legal position of the NM Department of Justice.

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: The bill would allow a qualified elector to register to vote when applying for a hunting or fishing license, i.e., through the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. As set forth in more detail below, it would specifically amend NMSA 1978, § 1-4-5.2 (2023) and NMSA 1978, § 1-4-48 (2023), accordingly.

For context, it warrants observing that the 2023 amendments to Section 1-4-5.2 and 1-4-48 are set to take effect July 1, 2025 and, as noted in the annotations to those statutory sections, provided for automatic voter registration at certain state agencies.

Section 1 of the bill would amend Section 1-4-5.2(C) (2023) so that a qualified elector may register to vote “through the department of game and fish at the time the qualified elector applies for a hunting or fishing license pursuant to” NMSA 1978, § 17-3-5. (Note: Section 17-3-5 is the general statutory section governing applications for hunting and fishing licenses).

Section 2 would amend NMSA 1978, § 1-4-48 in several respects. First, it would change references in the title of Section 1-4-48, and in Section 1-4-48(F), which currently refer to the Human Services Department, to its correct name of the “Health Care Authority” (department). (That change simply reflects the previous 2023 name change of the Human Services Department to its new name as the Health Care Authority, as noted in the annotations to Section 1-4-48).

It would also amend Section 1-4-48(B), by adding a new subsection (B)(2), so that voter registration shall be made available through the “department of game and fish by a license vendor appointed and authorized by the director of the department of game and fish to accept applications and issue licenses for hunting or fishing.”

Section 3 specifies that the effective date of the bill would be July 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 5, GAME COMMISSION REFORM, renames the department of game and fish as the department of wildlife and renames the State game commission as the State wildlife commission.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

N/A.