

LFC Requester:	Scott Sanchez
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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: 2/7/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 286 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Meredith A. Dixon **Agency Name and Code** 280-LOPD
Short Title: CRIME REDUCTION GRANT ACT APPLICATIONS **Number:** _____
Person Writing Theresa Edwards
Phone: 505.490.5106 **Email** Theresa.edward@lopdnm.us

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
None	None	-	-

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
(Moderate), specifically when contemplating awards for recruitment/retention	None	None	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(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	\$280.0 or more	\$280.0 or more	\$280.0 or more	Up to \$840.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(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 286 (HB 286) amends 31-28-4 NMSA 1978 by striking recruitment or retention of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, public defenders, corrections officers and mental health workers as an allowable use of Crime Reduction Grant Act funds.

There is no effective date; the bill, if enacted, would become effective June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained within the bill; however, there is a \$2 million special appropriation contained in the Legislative Finance Committee budget recommendation and \$2.5 million in the executive budget recommendation. It is likely that there will be funding included in House Bill 2 for these grants.

To remain competitive, LOPD may have to fund initiatives from base budget as needed. This could cost as much as \$200,000 in the Second Judicial District (Albuquerque) and \$80,000 per rural district.

LOPD has received about \$600,000 from Crime Reduction Grant Act awards since FY24. Of that, LOPD received about \$310,000 for recruitment and retention initiatives; some of these recruitment and retention initiatives were done in conjunction with district attorney's offices. More than half of the recruitment and retention funds went to rural areas where LOPD faces significant staffing challenges. Although requests for recruitment and retention help have not been approved recently, the grants that were awarded for this purpose in the past were very impactful, especially when used to incentivize relocating to a rural community.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

31-28-1 through 31-28-7 NMSA 1978, the Crime Reduction Grant Act, as currently written does not allow LOPD to apply for grants to benefit our statewide units (Appellate, Habeas, and Major Crimes units) as these units do not reside within a single judicial district or within the bounds of a criminal justice coordinating council.

The ABA Journal in November 2024 stated the following: “expectations for employment after law school graduation remained consistent over the past two decades. About half of all students surveyed this year expect to join private law firms, and about 6% plan to work in public-interest law, echoing earlier surveys. Meanwhile, those planning to work in government increased slightly, from 26% in 2004 to 28% in 2024.” (<http://tiny.cc/qzh7001>)

The inability to access these funds for recruitment would negatively impact the LOPD budget, rural recruitment efforts, or both.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

LOPD may experience increased difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff specifically in rural areas.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Likely related to House Bill 2 once amended by House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

LOPD will continue facing recruitment and retention challenges, especially in rural districts.

AMENDMENTS