

LFC Requester: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**  
**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 2-10-2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB 319 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Reps. Lord and Block **Agency Name and Code** Dept. Game and Fish - 516  
**Short Title:** Quail as "Game Bird" & Raising without Permit **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
NA	NA	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	NA	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Recurring	198

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: None  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act None

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: HB 319 proposes to amend 17-2-3 NMSA (1978) to exempt domestic strains of quail from the list of protected wildlife species, and to no longer require a permit to raise them in captivity for meat or eggs.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Bill would result in an unknown cost to the Agency for: investigating if individual quail are wild or domestic and thus if they were legally harvested; attempting to eradicate escaped and hybrid quail; and managing diseases transmitted from domestic to wild quail.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The primary concern is domestic quail that escape or are intentionally released from the captive facility could have significant negative impacts to wild quail populations and to the ecosystem. Having a new species on the landscape will shift the ecosystem balance and impact other species in unknown ways. Domestic quail could establish resident feral populations, becoming an invasive species that could outcompete native quail, causing a decline in native quail populations both locally and statewide. There is a high probability that escaped domestic quail will hybridize with native quail species, which could similarly harm the native populations. Domestic and hybrid species have repeatedly been shown to outcompete native species for food, habitat, and other resources, causing declines in native populations. Further, there is a risk of disease transmission from domestic to wild quail, which could have implications for wild quail die-offs. Declining wild quail populations could lead to a reduction in hunting opportunities.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None at this time.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

It is unclear who has regulatory authority over domestic quail. This would make it challenging to attempt to control domestic or hybrid quail or implement management activities. It may prove challenging to enforce hunting regulations as it may not be possible to know if quail were shot in the wild or in a private facility.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None at this time.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None at this time.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None at this time.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The Department of Game and Fish would continue to manage all quail populations and require permits to hold all quail species in captivity.

**AMENDMENTS**

None at this time.