

LFC Requester:	LFC Analyst Felix Chavez
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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: 10FEB25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB332 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Catherine J. Cullen, Rep. Rod Montoya, Rep. Jonathan A. Henry
Short Title: Unlawful Squatting
Agency Name and Code: 790 – Department of Public Safety
Person Writing: Matthew Broom, Deputy Chief
Phone: 5757601485 **Email:** matthew.broom@dps.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: **Related to 2025 HB309; 2024 HB56**
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Creates the crime of unlawful squatting; provides penalties; provides for civil damages for injury to property occurring in the course of unlawful squatting. Provides a process for removing an alleged unlawful squatter and for contesting a citation for squatting; requires a trial to determine property rights in a contest between a purported owner and an alleged squatter; providing for damages.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal implications to DPS.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

No significant issues to DPS.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

No performance implications to DPS.

Unlawful squatting often leads to an increase in criminal activity, such as theft, vandalism, and drug use, as squatted properties may become breeding grounds for criminal behavior. Criminalizing unlawful squatting would help prevent such activities and contribute to reducing crime rates in neighborhoods affected by squatters.

This bill allows for quicker removal of squatters, which reduces the potential for escalating tensions between property owners and squatters. This helps avoid confrontations that might otherwise escalate to violence.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No administrative implications to DPS.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

No conflict, duplication, companionship or relationship to DPS.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

No technical issues to DPS.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

No other substantive issues to DPS.

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable as no impact to DPS.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo will remain.

AMENDMENTS

None at this time.