

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Sunny Liu</b>
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**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:** 2.24.25 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB 485 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Stefani Lord, John Block **Agency Name and Code:** New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-79500  
**Short Title:** School Marshal Act **Number:** Management-79500  
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Person Writing:** Matthew Stackpole  
**Phone:** 505-699-5807 **Email:** Matthew.stackpole@dhsem.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	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>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA

(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: HB 485 enacts the School Marshal Act, which authorizes school districts to employ school marshals who are retired or former certified and commissioned law enforcement officers. The bill defines a “school marshal” as a retired or former certified and commissioned law enforcement officer who was certified and commissioned for no less than three years, left law enforcement in good standing, and is employed by a school district. These individuals must meet specific training and certification requirements developed by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.

School marshals are permitted to carry concealed firearms with approval from the local school board and the Public School Insurance Authority. Their role is limited to preventing or stopping offenses that threaten serious bodily injury or death on school premises. Additionally, HB 485 amends existing laws to allow school marshals to carry firearms on school premises and specifies conditions under which their status may be revoked.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB 485 does not include a specific appropriation. Any fiscal impact will be related to the costs of training, certification, and ongoing professional development of school marshals. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) does not anticipate a direct fiscal impact on its operations. However, it does seem like certain costs will have to be incurred by school districts who implement this program.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HB 485 presents several considerations regarding school safety and public security. By authorizing school marshals to carry concealed firearms, the bill aims to enhance school safety and provide an additional layer of protection during emergency situations. However, DHSEM has concerns regarding the potential risks associated with arming school personnel, including issues of firearm safety, use-of-force protocols, and the potential for escalation during incidents.

Coordination with local law enforcement is essential to ensure that school marshals operate within established security frameworks. DHSEM recommends consultation with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to evaluate the program’s implications for emergency response, law enforcement coordination, and the legal use of force. Additionally, clear guidelines should be established to define the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of school marshals to prevent conflicts with existing school resource officer programs.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

See Significant Issues.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

See Significant Issues. DHSEM recommends that school districts establish clear communication channels with local law enforcement agencies to ensure coordinated responses to emergencies.

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

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

See Significant Issues.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

See Significant Issues.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

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

DHSEM recommends continued consultation with DPS to assess what additional measures are needed to enhance school safety and improve coordination between schools and law enforcement agencies.

### **AMENDMENTS**