

LFC Requester:

Austin Davidson

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: 02/21/2025

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 553

Original Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Harlan Vincent, Sen.
Roberto Gonzales, Rep. Jimmy
Mason, Rep. Doreen Gallegos,
Rep. Meredith Dixon,

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

Person Writing Analysis: J. Spenser Lotz

Short Title: Timber Grading Act

Phone: 505-537-7676

Email: legisfir@nmag.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:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

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: This act would empower the Forest Division (Division) of the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) to create and administer a certification program for the grading of structural timbers used in construction.

Section 1 names the proposed law the “Timber Grading Act.”

Section 2 provides definitions for the act, including defining “certificate”, “grader” (person grading the timber), and “structural timber.”

Section 3 empowers and charges the division with creating rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act, as well as outlining minimum requirements such as the training and licensure of graders, training components, oversight, and license renewal. It also authorizes the division to charge a fee, and license individuals who have not completed the program provided they meet different criteria. Finally, it lays out the expiration of the license and empowers the division to suspend or revoke a license for good cause.

Section 4 provides the requirements for labelling graded timber. It further provides structural wood graded in-state may be used in all housing built in-state.

Section 5 makes an appropriation of \$150,000 to fund curricula development and program establishment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicate of SB 240. The bills are not perfectly identical, but SB 240 is the senate version of this bill.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

N/A.