

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: 01/29/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB123 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Sen. Leo Jaramillo **Agency Name and Code** 790 – Department of Public Safety
Short Title: New language for designating LEOs in transit districts **Number:** _____
Person Writing Sonya K. Chavez
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

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

(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

Senate Bill 123 (SB 123) amends the Regional Transit District Act to clarify law enforcement responsibilities within transit districts. It updates language to allow transit districts to employ district law enforcement officers instead of limiting this authority to commuter rail services. The bill grants these officers full peace officer powers on all district-owned or operated property, including tracks, easements, vehicles, and facilities. Officers must carry commissions of office while on duty and must wear a district-issued badge or uniform when making arrests. Additionally, the bill requires district law enforcement officers to obtain law enforcement certification within one year of employment. The legislation also allows districts to contract with other law enforcement agencies for security services. This bill ensures clarity in law enforcement authority within transit districts and enhances security operations by broadening enforcement powers beyond commuter rail services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact to DPS.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 123 could potentially impact LEA and public safety by expanding law enforcement authority within regional transit districts. The bill allows transit districts to employ district law enforcement officers with full peace officer powers on district-owned and operated properties, including railways, transit facilities, and vehicles. These officers must obtain law enforcement certification within one year of employment, which means the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy may experience an increase in certification requests and training enrollments for officers hired under these provisions.

For public safety, the bill strengthens security on public transit by ensuring transit law enforcement officers have the authority to enforce laws, make arrests, and maintain order across transit systems. This could lead to improved crime prevention efforts, faster response times to incidents, and better coordination between transit security and local law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the bill permits transit districts to contract with other law enforcement agencies for security services, which may require enhanced interagency collaboration and jurisdictional coordination.

Overall, SB 123 increases the role of law enforcement in transit districts, placing additional demands on the academy for training and certification while enhancing security measures to improve public safety in transit areas. Existing curriculum and law enforcement instructors for training transit district officers will address training needs, although the increase in numbers of cadets could pose space challenges. Currently, the Academy operates at almost full capacity year-round. The district officers would be required to attend the basic academy, now offered twice a year. Depending on the number of transit officers expected to be hired, this would magnify the growing numbers of police cadets each cycle and would precipitate a need to fully consider addition of classroom and training space at the existing Academy. Although LEA's current assessment is no fiscal impact and this expected gradual increase in cadets (transit officers) at the Academy can currently be accommodated, future space increase considerations are inevitable.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

No performance implications to DPS.

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

As state, local, tribal and in this case, transit authorities continue to expand to address the growing need to address crime in all areas of New Mexico, the Academy will be expected to address expanding training needs. Currently, this is being accomplished with existing training staff, training resources and space. Projected growth will necessitate strong consideration of expanding training space at the Academy for statewide law enforcement training support.

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.