

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}*

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment \_\_\_\_\_  
Correction \_\_\_\_\_ Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Date Prepared February 7, 2025

Bill Number: SB 173

**Sponsor:** David M. Gallegos, Antonio Maestas,  
and Joshua N. Hernandez  
**Short Title:** PUBLIC SAFETY  
TELECOMMUNICATORS AS POLICE  
MEMBERS

**Agency Name and Code** DFA-341  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing** Sabrina Varela  
**Phone:** 505-467-9048 **Email** Sabrina.varela@dfa.nm.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 Expenditure Decreases)

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

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

(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: Senate Bill 173 (SB 173) proposes the inclusion of Public Safety Telecommunicators (PSTs) as police members under the Public Employees Retirement Act (PERA). It provides for elections related to adopting police member coverage plans for current Public Safety Telecommunicators. The bill amends Section 10-11-2 NMSA 1978 and establishes temporary provisions for elections to transition to new coverage plans.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill may have financial impacts related to increased retirement benefits for Public Safety Telecommunicators, potential adjustments to employer contributions, and administrative costs related to transitioning employees into new coverage plans. A more detailed actuarial analysis may be required to assess the long-term fiscal implications.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- This change could improve workforce stability within the Public Safety Telecommunicator profession.
- It may also encourage longevity in service due to improved retirement benefits.
- Public Safety Telecommunicators play a critical role in emergency response, and their inclusion as police members may enhance recruitment, retention, and overall benefits.
- Local government employers may need to adjust their budget allocations to accommodate potential increases in employer contributions.
- SB 173 aligns with NM Stat § 10-11-8 (2024), which includes PSTs in a category of first responders eligible for reemployment while receiving retirement benefits. The recognition of PSTs highlights their essential role in emergency response and law enforcement support.
- The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) gathered PERA IDs from Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to facilitate an actuarial analysis by PERA. According to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), there are 1,037 active Certified PSTs. DFA was able to collect nearly 600 PERA IDs from governments that contribute to PERA. However, some agencies reported that their employees are covered under a 401(k) or other retirement

plans. It is also important to note that the 1,037 PSTs reported by DPS include individuals from various entities, including those that do not fall under PERA, such as tribal governments or agencies with alternate retirement structures.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The transition may require significant administrative oversight and adjustments to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) system.

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

Relates to SB 251, which includes PSTs under a different classification allowing them to return to work while receiving retirement benefits.

- SB 251 serves as a clear example of PSTs being classified alongside other public safety personnel or "first responders," reinforcing the need for their inclusion in SB173 to ensure they receive equitable recognition and benefits.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The bill aligns with national trends recognizing Public Safety Telecommunicators as first responders and providing them with appropriate retirement benefits.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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

- Public Safety Telecommunicators will continue to be classified under general member retirement plans, potentially limiting their retirement benefits compared to police officers.
- Retention and recruitment challenges may persist within the profession.

## **AMENDMENTS**