

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure 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

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 190 (SB190) creates the Homelessness Reduction Division in the New Mexico Health Care Authority (NMHCA); the Interagency Homelessness Reduction Task Force, which has representation from the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) Cabinet Secretary or their designee, among others; and the Homelessness Reduction Advisory Council. The focus of these new entities is on initiatives to reduce homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization in New Mexico, improve health and human services outcomes for persons who experience homelessness, and strengthen safety nets that contribute to housing stability.

SB190 creates a non-recurring appropriation of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the General Fund to NMHCA for expenditure in FY26. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall revert to the General Fund.

NMHED's analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB190 creates a non-recurring appropriation of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the General Fund to NMHCA for expenditure in FY26. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB190 creates three new entities. The first is the Homelessness Reduction Division in the NMHCA. This division will lead the state's efforts related to homelessness prevention through legislation, rules, and budgets, and this division will work with federal and local experts on homelessness issues. Among its other duties, this division will:

- oversee the development and implementation of the Statewide Strategic Homelessness Reduction Plan;
- create a statewide data system to house homelessness data;
- identify resources, benefits, and services that can aid in addressing homelessness;
- coordinate cross-agency homelessness efforts; and
- serve as an advocate for those experiencing homelessness.

SB190 also created the Interagency Homelessness Reduction Task Force consists of leadership from 16 departments or divisions across the state, including NMHED, the New Mexico Public Education Department, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Indian Affairs, Public Safety, and others. This task force is administratively attached to NMHCA and will advise the Homelessness Reduction Division on initiatives for decreasing homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization, improving health and human services outcomes for those experiencing homelessness, and strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability. The task force will go about this by, among other duties:

- recommending policy, regulatory, or resource changes in support of the objectives in the Statewide Strategic Homelessness Reduction Plan;
- recommending and promoting interagency collaboration on policy recommendations related to the intersection of homelessness and poverty; and
- providing an annual report regarding the task force's work, its recommendations, and outcomes and measures related to homelessness to the Governor, the appropriate interim legislative committee, the Legislative Finance Committee, and the Homelessness Reduction Division.

SB190 lastly creates the Homelessness Reduction Advisory Council. This council will be administratively attached to NMHCA, will advise and make recommendations to the task force and the Homelessness Reduction Division director, and will be composed of, among others, the following members appointed by the Governor and representing:

- those with lived experience of homelessness;
- individuals with disabilities;
- the philanthropic private-funding sector;
- statewide behavioral health advocacy organizations; and
- providers of the homeless response system.

SB190 creates the entities above to address homelessness in New Mexico. Regarding higher education, since SB190 creates state entities to investigate and address homelessness in New Mexico in general, it is assumed that higher education students experiencing homelessness

would be included in those efforts. It could be helpful to include higher education institutions (HEIs) to help identify instances of homelessness among their students, connect their students to these new state resources, and help inform policy recommendations overseen by the new NMHCA division. The new entities may also look into recommendations specific to higher education students, one possible example being to find ways to incorporate HEI housing facilities as part of wider plans to address homelessness in higher education student populations.

NMHED may need to expand its data collection and reporting in order to inform the NMHED Secretary about homelessness in higher education in her role on the task force. It would likely take time to work with HEIs to identify what information they collect, how that may inform questions about homelessness, and to set up future data collection to start gathering data that is not currently collected by HEIs or NMHED. SB190 specifies that the Homelessness Reduction Division will create a new data system for homelessness data. It is not clear the level of effort needed to stand that up and then to incorporate data from many different state agencies and other data providers, including NMHED.

SB190 provides that the initial reporting periods are in September and October 2025, but the effective date of its provisions are July 1, 2025. It may be that the task force and advisory council will have enough time between creation and the first reporting period to provide sufficient information for the Governor and Legislature, but it does seem like it may be too quick of a turnaround to evaluate the long-term effects and plans for the work in SB190.

Another possible issue with and benefit of SB190 is that it includes representation from many state agencies. With so many contributors to the task force, it may take increased time and work to incorporate feedback from all of the members. However, if all of that feedback is included, such feedback could provide a broad and comprehensive picture of homelessness and ways to address this issue.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB190 requires that the task force and advisory council report to the Governor and Legislature in September and October of 2025, respectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB190 may require new reporting or data collection from NMHED. NMHED may require new staff or funding to accommodate those needs.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

2024 Senate Bill 166 introduced the same material as SB190 and was postponed indefinitely.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

A state agency could take on the role of the Homelessness Reduction Division and work towards the goals identified in SB190.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Homelessness Reduction Division will not be created at the NMHCA, and the Interagency Homelessness Reduction Task Force and the Homelessness Reduction Advisory Council will not be convened. An appropriation will not be provided for the items covered in SB190.

AMENDMENTS

N/A