

LFC Requester:	Noah Montano
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.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 February 3, 2025
Bill No: SB 240

Sponsor: Sen. Gonzales
Short Title: Structural Wood Grading Act

Agency Name and Code Regulation and Licensing Department-420
Number: _____
Person Writing Lori Chavez
Phone: 505-469-2728 **Email** Lori.chavez1@rld.nm.

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
None	None	None	None

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
None	None	None	None	None

(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	None	None	None	None	None	None

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: n/a

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: n/a

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 240 (SB240)

SB240 creates a new act titled “Structural Wood Grading Act” that creates a new program and licensing requirements for dimensional lumber, structural beams and vigas milled in New Mexico. The Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is responsible for:

1. adopting rules that include training and licensure of graders, instructors, oversight of the program and enforcement;
2. developing and implementing state specific system to grade structural wood that is milled in-state, sold, transported or used in construction in-state;
3. issuing structural wood grading licenses to qualified applicants; and
4. establishing a certification for qualified structural wood.

SB240 permits the use of structural wood to be used in all housing in the state and requires that the end user of the wood provide the inspector from the Construction Industries Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) with the written certificate in lieu of a grade stamp.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct fiscal impact anticipated for the RLD if SB240 is enacted.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In accordance with the International Residential Code (IRC) 2021, specifically section R502.1, the grading requirements for certain types of lumber are clearly outlined. This section specifies that grade marks from accredited lumber grading or inspection agencies hold significant value, particularly when these agencies are recognized by an accreditation body that complies with DOC PS 20.

The **U.S. Department of Commerce's American Softwood Lumber Standard DOC PS 20** correlates lumber size to moisture content. Green and dry lumber are measured using separate size schedules to ensure both products will approximate the same size in service.

In instances where a grade mark is absent, a certificate of inspection issued by a qualified lumber

inspection agency that meets the criteria established in this section is deemed acceptable. It is essential to understand that these stipulations are explicitly addressed within the Code, providing clarity on the requirements for the acceptance of various types of timber. This ensures that stakeholders in construction and building industries are aware of the standards that govern lumber quality and compliance, facilitating the use of appropriately graded timber in residential construction.

In the New Mexico Administrative Code, section 14.7.3.16, Chapter 8 focuses on roof and ceiling construction, specifically in section R802.1.3, which addresses structural log members. This section outlines the New Mexico Viga span chart requirements, providing critical specifications for the use of Viga beams in construction. These rules ensure that structural integrity and safety standards are met when utilizing log members in roofing and ceiling systems, reflecting the unique considerations for construction practices within New Mexico.

While the intention of SB240 may be to enhance oversight and address specific issues within structural construction, it is important to recognize that a program already exists to manage these concerns. Establishing a new lumber grading program could lead to duplicated efforts, increased administrative costs, and potential confusion among stakeholders. Instead, leveraging and strengthening the existing requirements as outlined in section R502.1 of the 3021 IRC may be a more efficient and cost-effective approach, ensuring that resources are utilized effectively while still addressing the needs of the structural work sector.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS