

LFC Requester:	LFC
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date 2025-02-11

Bill No: SB325

Sponsor: Campos, Pete
Short CORRECTIONS
Title: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Agency Name
and Code NMHED
Number: _____

Person Writing Weber, Jody
Phone: 6179089730 Email jody.weber@hed.nm.g

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	\$500.0	recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	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 325 (SB325) directs the Corrections Department to establish and administer a post-secondary education program for an associate's degree in alcohol and drug abuse counseling for qualified inmates across all New Mexico correctional facilities. The bill specifies that Luna Community College grant the degree and New Mexico Highlands University develop the curriculum and provide technical assistance. It appropriates five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the General Fund (GF, non-reverting) to the New Mexico Corrections Department.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB325 directs the New Mexico Corrections Department to establish and administer a post-secondary education program for an associate's degree in alcohol and drug abuse counseling for qualified inmates across all New Mexico correctional facilities. The bill specifies that Luna Community College grant the degree and New Mexico Highlands University develop the curriculum and provide technical assistance. It appropriates five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the GF (non-reverting) to the New Mexico Corrections Department in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and subsequent years to establish and administer the program.

This program would be available in all facilities, including those privately operated by contract with the state.

Luna Community College would grant the associate's degree, and New Mexico Highlands University would develop curriculum and provide technical assistance to the New Mexico Corrections Department and Luna Community College for the program's administration. At a minimum, the program must be:

- accredited by the appropriate regional or national accrediting agency, and
- meet licensing requirements for an alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Some items to consider include the following:

- SB325 does not specify whether these programs would be in-person or online.
- SB325 does not specify which institution would provide faculty, oversee courses, and maintain the academic integrity of the program.
- SB325 does not specify which institution would maintain the curriculum over time, amending and updating such curriculum when required by law.
- Luna Community College is currently not approved to grant this degree. Luna Community College must apply through the New Mexico Higher Education Department and be approved to offer an associate's degree in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling.
- Qualified inmates would be required to fulfill the general education requirements for an associate's degree including 31 credits: Communications (6), Mathematics (3), Science (4), Social and Behavioral Science (3), Humanities (3), Creative and Fine Arts (3), Flex (9)
- An associate degree in Alcohol and Drug Counseling requires a minimum of three years and three thousand client contact hours under appropriate supervision of experience in the practice of alcohol and drug abuse counseling and two hundred hours of face-to-face supervision (New Mexico Board of Counseling and Therapy Practices, Rules and Statutes, p.34).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Corrections Department will not offer an associate's degree in alcohol and drug abuse counseling to inmates.

AMENDMENTS

N/A