

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Romero, A **LAST UPDATED** _____
ORIGINAL DATE 3/6/2025
BILL House Memorial
SHORT TITLE Study Office of Peace **NUMBER** 40
ANALYST Dinces

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Legislative Council Service		Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal			

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Memorial 40

House Memorial 40 (HM40) would create a group of seven members to study whether it is feasible to create a state office of peace and to make recommendation to the appropriate interim committees about the potential creation of this office.

This memorial does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials contain no appropriation and do not carry the weight of law. The group to examine whether the state should have an office of peace would be made up of University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law representatives. The group would be supported by the Legislative Council Service (LCS) to coordinate meetings and to help prepare a final report regarding the group's work, findings and recommendations.

These meetings would have an impact on the operating budget of LCS, but this impact would likely be minimal and within the current scope of LCS operations. UNM law may also be minimally impacted by the creation and meeting of this group.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

While there are many organizations focused on peace, LFC staff did not find evidence of any state with its own office of peace. Nongovernmental organizations operate within this space, including the United States Institute of Peace.

Since the 1920s, different members of the federal government have proposed creating the Department of Peace, however it has never been established.

New Mexico would be unique in creating a state level office for this purpose and a work group could help determine the merits and challenges of such an office.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

As mentioned in fiscal impacts, there are minimal administrative implications for LCS and potentially UNM regarding staffing and coordinating the meetings of the group to determine if the state should create an office of peace.

SD/hj/hg