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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Armstrong, G./Brown ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/18  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 277

SHORT TITLE State Defense Force Changes SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Sánchez

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

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		None	None	None		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 277 proposes to amend the New Mexico Military Code to allow persons over the age of sixty-four to be part of the state defense force. Makes the adjutant general responsible for prescribing regulations for the uniform and insignia instead of the governor. The bill also allows the adjutant general to use members of the state force while on cadre duty to assist the National Guard with training or other exercises that are not considered state-ordered militia duty.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), domestic threats to national security and the increased use of the National Guard forces for out-of-state deployments increase the potential for members of the State Defense Force to assist in times of need. Unfortunately the efficacy of the State Defense Force is currently impeded by the lack of flexibility in the regulations allowing them to work in cooperation and collaboration with the New Mexico National Guard and the New Mexico Department of Military Affairs. The State Defense Force is a volunteer force much like the Mounted Patrol or the Search and Rescue Teams that work with the New Mexico State Police. Many of the volunteers are professionals such as doctors and lawyers who are looking for a way to continue serving within the New Mexico National Guard.

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This bill allows the adjutant general to task the State Defense Force while they are in cadre (or training) status to assist the National Guard with training or other exercises which are not considered state-ordered militia duty.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) believes that this bill could improve the state's response to emergencies and disasters.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

DMA believes that this bill would allow the New Mexico National Guard to be more flexible in accomplishing training and other exercises to ensure readiness for state missions or federal activation by using the State Defense Force on a more regular basis.

ABS/al