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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Romero, A ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/2022
LAST UPDATED _____ HM 38
SHORT TITLE Law Enforcement Training Study SB _____
ANALYST Rabin

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY22	FY23	FY24	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI					

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Memorial 13
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 38 requests the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to conduct a statewide study assessing gaps in law enforcement and first responder training related to how officers respond to culturally diverse groups and communities in New Mexico; trauma-informed response to sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking; and interactions with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities in emergency situations. DPS is requested to develop the assessment in collaboration with local organizations with expertise in these areas.

DPS and its partners are requested to report their findings to the interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee by July 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DPS reports this memorial will have no fiscal impact on the agency.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 includes a \$250 thousand nonrecurring appropriation from the general fund for a job task analysis for law enforcement officers statewide, which will inform the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy's curriculum. Studying the issues identified in this memorial could align with that work.

HB2 also includes a \$892.8 thousand nonrecurring appropriation from the general fund to increase state police advanced training initiatives and a \$140 thousand recurring general fund appropriation to establish a law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program within state police. These trainings and programs could be informed by the assessment requested by HM38.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Although researchers generally agree adding officers reduces crime, growing police forces may also have some negative consequences. Expanding police presence in disadvantaged communities often fails to improve community members' perception of their safety or police legitimacy, and a recent study found larger police forces make more arrests for low-level offenses, which can increase uses of force and raise the likelihood of future criminal behavior from arrestees. New Mexicans may be particularly concerned about increased police presence because the state has the second highest per capita rate of people killed by police in the country over the past five years. From 2016 to 2020, 108 individuals were killed by police, a rate triple the national average. New Mexico law enforcement agencies reported 54 officer-involved shootings in FY21, a 35 percent increase from FY20, resulting in the deaths of 25 people.

Diversifying the officer workforce may reduce victimization among underrepresented groups and reduce uses of force. Recent studies have shown that increasing Black and female representation among officers led to increased reporting and reduced victimization among those groups. Female officers are also significantly less likely to use force than their male counterparts.

Research suggests proper training has also had some success in reducing excessive force. Trainings to address officer behavior include implicit bias training, de-escalation training, and crisis intervention training. Evaluation of these programs' impact is limited, however, and they may not alter long-term behavior without strong use-of-force policies and accountability.

DUPLICATION

HM38 duplicates Senate Memorial 13.

OTHER SUBSTANTIIVE EFFORTS

The Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC) notes this initiative may benefit the population it serves, and suggests collaboration with, or participation in, existing working groups such as the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs' Underserved Working Group. CVRC also suggests collaboration with organizations with expertise working with marginalized groups, such as Enlace Comunitario, the Immigration Law Center, Casa Fortaleza, and the Transgender Resource Center. CVRC further notes these efforts may require support from researchers to design an assessment tool with adequate scientific validity to measure attitudes, personal values, and efficacy of training efforts.

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