

LFC Requester:	Connor Jorgensen
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}

Date Prepared: 1/16/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 24 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Miguel P. Garcia **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico
Short Title: Community Governance Attorneys Changes **Number:** _____
Person Writing Lenaya Montoya
Phone: 575-418-7595 **Email** lenayamontoya@unm.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
None	None		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue 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		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

HB24 amends the Community Governance Attorney Act; the Community Governance Attorney Program receives a recurring appropriation of \$96,000 in the General Appropriation Act.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

This bill proposes to modify the Community Governance Attorney Act to update the administration of the Community Governance Attorney Program. These changes are:

- The responsibility for advertising the Program to students would change from the Higher Education Department to the UNM School of Law.
- The responsibility for administering contracts with legal service providers would change from the Community Governance Attorney Commission to the UNM School of Law.
- The responsibility for selecting the students who participate in the Program would change from the Higher Education Department to the Community Governance Attorney Commission.
- The definition of eligible legal service providers would be expanded to include state agencies.
- The cost-share requirement for the legal service providers would be changed to allow them to utilize state funding for the cost-share.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The change to allow legal service providers to use state funding for their cost-share requirement will greatly expand their ability to participate in the Community Governance Attorney Program, relieving them of the need to secure private or federal funding. Coupled with the change to allow state agencies to participate in the Program, this would allow state agencies to use their general appropriation as cost-share.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None. This bill proposes to realign administrative duties in a manner that is more consistent with the roles of the Community Governance Attorney Commission, the UNM School of Law, and the Higher Education Department. It also expands the definition of legal service providers to allow for more to participate in the Community Governance Attorney Program.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Expanding the definition of legal service providers to include state agencies will greatly expand the number of eligible legal service providers. For example, the Department of Justice's Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division would be an ideal placement for participants in the Community Governance Attorney Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The proposed changes will make administration of the Community Governance Attorney Program more efficient. Currently, the Higher Education Department is responsible for advertising the Program to students. It is more logical for this task to be assigned to the School of Law.

Allowing UNM to administer the contracts with legal service providers will take that administrative burden off the Community Governance Attorney Commission, which does not have the capacity to administer and enforce these contracts.

Allowing the Community Governance Attorney Commission to select the student who participate in the Program is more logical than having them make recommendations to the Higher Education Department, as the Commission establishes the selection criteria and conducts the student interviews.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Community Governance Attorney Program will continue to function but will maintain an awkward administrative structure. It will also be limited to working with just a couple legal service providers who can obtain non-state cost-share funds.

AMENDMENTS

None

Reponses received from:

Adrian Oglesby, Oglesby@unm.edu, Director of Utton Transboundary Resources Center