

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Scott Sanchez</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 01/21/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB 38 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

<b>Sponsor:</b> <u>Kathleen Cates</u>	<b>Agency Name and Code</b>
<b>Short Title:</b> <u>Possession of Weapon Conversion Device</u>	<b>Number:</b> <u>760</u>
	<b>Person Writing</b> <u>Roberta Cohen</u>
	<b>Phone:</b> <u>505-386-6873</u> <b>Email</b> <u>Roberta.cohen@apb.nm.gov</u>

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
0	0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
0	0	0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

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

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	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**

Synopsis: HB 38 introduces the crime of unlawful possession of a weapon conversion device in New Mexico. It defines a "weapon conversion device" as any part or combination of parts designed to convert a semiautomatic weapon into a fully automatic weapon. Under the bill, knowingly possessing or transporting such a device is a third-degree felony. Each device found is considered a separate offense. Additionally, HB 38 provides clear definitions for "fully automatic weapon," "semiautomatic weapon," and "weapon conversion device," which will help law enforcement enforce the law effectively.

This bill addresses a critical public safety concern by preventing the illegal conversion of semiautomatic firearms into fully automatic ones. By criminalizing the possession and transportation of weapon conversion devices, HB 38 helps deter illegal firearm modifications, while also encouraging responsible gun ownership. The bill strengthens existing firearm regulations and supports law enforcement efforts to reduce gun violence, ensuring that dangerous firearms do not fall into the wrong hands.

The Adult Parole Board supports HB 38, recognizing that it will contribute to enhanced public safety and may help reduce firearm-related crimes. Those convicted under this law would face clear legal consequences, helping the parole board make informed decisions about parole eligibility.

Moreover, the bill will assist law enforcement in identifying and preventing the illegal possession of dangerous firearms and conversion devices. By providing clear legal guidelines and reinforcing penalties for firearm-related offenses, HB 38 contributes to a safer environment for both the public and law enforcement. Ultimately, the bill strengthens the criminal justice system, fosters safer communities, and supports better outcomes for parolees, aligning with the parole board's goals of rehabilitation, public safety, and reducing recidivism.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

**None**

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

**None**

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

**None**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

**None**

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

**None**

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

**None**

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

**None**

**ALTERNATIVES**

**None**

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

**None**

**AMENDMENTS**

**None**