

LFC Requestor: SANCHEZ, Scott

**2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

**Section I: General**

**Chamber:** House **Category:** Bill  
**Number:** 83 **Type:** Introduced

**Date (of THIS analysis):** 1/22/25  
**Sponsor(s):** John Block and Stefani Lord  
**Short Title:** PERMITLESS CARRY OF FIREARMS

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**Section II: Fiscal Impact**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

<b>Appropriation Contained</b>		<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>		
\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

<b>Estimated Revenue</b>			<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>		
\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

	<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Non-recurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a

### Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: [2025 HB101](#)

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: n/a

### Section IV: Narrative

#### 1. BILL SUMMARY

##### a) Synopsis

House Bill 83 (HB83) proposes to repeal Sections 30-7-2.2 through 30-7-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994, Chapter 22, Sections 2 & 3, Laws 2003, Chapter 253, Section 1 & Laws 1975, Chapter 149, Section 1, as amended); and create a new section of Chapter 30, Article 7 NMSA 1978 that allows the open or concealed carry of a loaded firearm for individuals 18 and older who are not prohibited from possessing or owning a firearm by federal or state law or a court order.

Is this an amendment or substitution?  Yes  No

Is there an emergency clause?  Yes  No

##### b) Significant Issues

Firearm deaths in New Mexico:

New Mexico has had one of the highest age adjusted firearm death rates in the U.S. over the past two decades.

Over the past decade (2011-2022):

- The age-adjusted firearm death rate in New Mexico increased by 84% (from 14.8 per 100,000 population in 2011 to 27.3 per 100,000 population in 2022).
- New Mexico's firearm death rate ranking among U.S. states increased from 10th highest to 3rd highest in the U.S.
- The gap in the age adjusted firearm death rate between New Mexico and the U.S. has also widened between 2011 and 2022. More specifically, in 2011, New Mexico's age-adjusted firearm death rate was 45% higher than the U.S. In 2022, New Mexico's age-adjusted firearm death rate was 90% higher than the U.S.

More recent trends in firearm deaths in New Mexico (2019-2023) indicate that:

- The number of firearm deaths has increased by 7% from 472 (in 2019) to 505 (in 2023). However, the number of firearm deaths also peaked at 562 firearm deaths (in 2021), which is a 19% increase between 2019 and 2021.
- Suicide with a firearm has remained relatively stable between 2019-2023.
- Homicide with a firearm increased by 29% from 158 (in 2019) to 204 (in 2023). The number of homicides with firearms also peaked at 224 firearm deaths (in 2021), which is a 42% increase between 2019 and 2021.
- In 2022, there were a total of 550 firearm-related deaths in New Mexico that included 214 homicides, which represents 39% of all firearm deaths in New Mexico (Unpublished data, [NM BVRHS](#)).
- In 2022, 77.0% (or 214 out of 278) of homicides involved a firearm (Unpublished data, [NM BVRHS](#)).
- Over the past several years, firearms have become the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in America ([Gun Violence: The Impact on Public Health \(nihcm.org\)](#)).

### **Comparative Analysis of States with Permit-less Firearm Carry Laws**

In 2023, there were 25 states that have permit-less firearm carry laws. A study done by John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (<https://hub.jhu.edu/2022/09/21/increase-firearm-assaults-with-relaxed-conceal-carry/>) found that:

- Less restrictive concealed carry [of firearms] laws increased the rate of assaults with firearms (12.75 per 100,000) by 24% when individuals convicted of violent misdemeanors were eligible to obtain concealed-carry licenses.
- The rate of assaults with firearms increased an average of 9.5% relative to forecasted trends in the first 10 years after 34 states relaxed restrictions on civilians carrying concealed firearms in public.
- More specifically, states that relaxed their laws without including one or more of three provisions (1. live-firearm training; 2. discretion to deny a permit if an applicant is unstable or immoral; and 3. discretion to deny a permit if an applicant has a history of violence and/or a history of other violent misdemeanor convictions) had an average increase of 10.26 gun assaults per 100,000 population annually (a 21.6% increase) and an additional 1.44 per 100,000 gun homicides (a 34.9% increase) per year compared to their forecasted trends.
- For states that did not require live-firearm training, the average rate of gun assaults increased to 8.28 per 100,000 people (an 18.3% increase).

Zeoli et al. (2022) described background checks and licensing laws as a key component of evidence-based gun policy that enabled states to screen for high-risk individuals from purchasing guns ([Effectiveness of Firearm Restriction, Background Checks, and Licensing Laws in Reducing Gun Violence - April M. Zeoli, Alexander D. Mccourt, Jennifer K. Paruk, 2022 \(sagepub.com\)](#)).

Lundstrom et al. (2023) examined the impact of changes in (permit-less) concealed firearm carrying laws in West Virginia, which was implemented in May 2016, by comparing firearm deaths in 1999-2015 and 2016-2020

(<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2023.307382?download=true>).

Key findings were:

- Firearm mortality increased by 29% after the law was implemented.
- Handgun mortality increased by 48% after the law was implemented.

Similarly, Siegel et al. (2017) examined the impact of more restrictive (“may issue laws”) and less restrictive (“shall issue laws”) state laws for concealed carry permits for firearms on homicide rates in all 50 states during a 25 year time period (from 1991-2015) (<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304057?download=true>).

Key findings were that states with less restrictive (more permissive) laws for concealed carry permits had:

- 6.5% higher total homicide rates
- 8.6% higher firearm homicide rates
- 10.6% higher handgun homicide rates

Doucette et al. (2022) used data from the Gun Violence Archive (from 2014-2020) to examine the impact of relaxed concealed carry permitting laws [for firearms] on officer involved shootings.

Their key finding was that:

- States with permit-less concealed carry laws had a 12.9% increase in officer involved shootings
- States with more lax laws for concealed carry (permit-less carry) may have higher rates of officer involved shootings since officers may: (a) be more likely to encounter citizens who carry concealed firearms; and/or (b) have higher perceived threat of danger from citizens (who are more likely to carry a firearm)

In 2024, legislation on Permit less Carry of Firearms ([HB0078 in the 2024 Regular Session](#)) was introduced as a House Pre-filed Bill that was not printed (HRC – Rules & Order of Business) and the Action was Postponed Indefinitely.

## 2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes  No

If yes, describe how.

- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan?  Yes  No

**Goal 1:** We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans

**Goal 2:** We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments

**Goal 3:** We improve health status for all New Mexicans

**Goal 4:** We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

## 3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?

Yes  No  N/A

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?

Yes  No  N/A

- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

#### 5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None.

#### 6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill?  Yes  No

\*\*There is no definition of a firearm.

#### 7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written?  Yes  No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)?  Yes  No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?  
 Yes  No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs?  Yes  No

HB83 would require changes to the criminal code including:

- The repeal of Sections 30-7-2.2 through 30-7-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994, Chapter 22, Sections 2 & 3, Laws 2003, Chapter 253, Section 1 & Laws 1975, Chapter 149, Section 1, as amended); and
- The creation of a new section of Chapter 30, Article 7 NMSA 1978 that allows the open or concealed carry of a loaded firearm for individuals 18 and older who are not prohibited from possessing or owning a firearm by federal or state law or a court order.

#### 8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

Firearm Deaths for Children and by Race/Ethnicity in New Mexico:

- In 2020, firearms surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death for children in the U.S. (under 19 years old). In 2021, firearms has remained the leading cause of death for children ([Gun Violence: The Impact on Society \(nihcm.org\)](#)).
- Between 2018 and 2022, there were 117 firearm deaths among children aged 0 – 17 in New Mexico, which included 50 suicide deaths and 56 homicide deaths (Unpublished data, [NM BVRHS](#)).
- Firearm deaths for American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) residents in New Mexico increased by 114% between 2019 (27 deaths) and 2023 (58 deaths).
- Firearm deaths for Hispanics increased by almost 40% between 2019 (206 deaths) and the peak in 2021 (288 deaths)

- Firearm deaths for non-Hispanic Whites decreased by 11% between 2019 (213 deaths) and 2023 (189 deaths)

## **9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)**

The Economic Impact of Firearm Deaths in New Mexico:

- The total annual cost of firearm deaths in New Mexico in 2022 is \$6.22 billion, costing each New Mexican resident \$2,943 annually ([CDC WISQARS](#)).
- In 2020, firearms surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death for children in the U.S. (under 19 years old). In 2021, firearms has remained the leading cause of death for children ([Gun Violence: The Impact on Society \(nihcm.org\)](#)).
- In 2022, New Mexico had the third highest age-adjusted firearm death rate among all states in the United States (26.5 deaths per 100,000 residents) (Unpublished data, [BVRHS](#)), which was 84% higher than the United States rate (14.4 deaths per 100,000 residents, age adjusted) ([Provisional Mortality Statistics, 2018 through Last Week Request Form \(cdc.gov\)](#)).

## **10. ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

If House Bill 83 (HB0083) is not enacted, then it will be illegal for adults to carry a firearm without a permit.

## **12. AMENDMENTS**

None.