

**LFC Requester:****Rachel Mercer-Garcia****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** 2/5/25 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB0249 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Joseph Sanchez **Agency Name and Code** Dept. of Workforce Solutions-631  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Person Writing** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Short Title:** Unemployment & Emergencies & Disasters **Analysis:** Sarita Nair  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0	0		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
0	0	0		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

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

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	No Fiscal Impact					

(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:

This bill addresses a fundamental unfairness in the existing unemployment compensation by allowing the Secretary to approve the waiving of the waiting week for Standard UI (STUI) claims in the case of state or federal declaration of a disaster or emergency. This will put the STUI claimants on even footing with federal disaster unemployment assistance.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no fiscal impact attached to this bill because it does not change the maximum amount or duration of benefits; instead it starts the duration sooner.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Standard unemployment claims under NM Unemployment Compensation Laws requires claimants to wait a week prior to receiving unemployment benefits after a claim has been filed. This bill gives the Secretary the discretion to waive the waiting week requirement on claims filed as a result of a federal or state emergency or disaster declaration, allowing affected claimants to receive benefits sooner. Currently, the waiting week is waived for claimants who do not qualify for standard unemployment benefits (STUI) and are therefore eligible for benefits under a federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program but is not waived if the claimant only qualifies for STUI benefits. This bill would allow for uniformity between the programs for claimants similarly affected no matter which benefit for which they are eligible. The waiver of the waiting week will not impact the duration of or the amount of benefits paid on the claim.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

UIA (system) will need to be modified to implement this change should the Secretary approve this waiver for the specific disaster related claims. The system must be able to differentiate between claims filed by those affected by a state or federal emergency or disaster and other unemployment claims; this may have to be a manual process. This can be built into the ordinary course of system improvements.

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

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

Absent the ability to waive the waiting week, some claimants experiencing unemployment due to declared emergencies or disasters will continue waiting an additional week before receiving unemployment benefits, while others will not, depending upon the program.

## **AMENDMENTS**