

LFC Requester:	Rachel Mercer-Gracia
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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: 2/10/25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 249 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Joesph L. Sanchez **Agency Name** NM Department of Homeland
Short Title: Unemployment & Emergencies **and Code** Security and Emergency
& Disasters **Number:** Management-79500
Person Writing Matthew Stackpole
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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
Total	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	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: House Bill 249 amends the New Mexico Unemployment Compensation Law by allowing the Secretary of Workforce Solutions to waive the mandatory one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits when a federal or state emergency or disaster has been declared. Under current law, individuals who qualify for unemployment benefits must wait one week before receiving payments.

This bill appears to have the goal of ensuring that, in times of crisis, impacted individuals can receive financial assistance without delay. The legislation does not modify other eligibility criteria, meaning that claimants must still register for work, demonstrate availability for employment, actively seek work, and meet wage requirements within their base period.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal impact of House Bill 249 remains unclear. The bill does not appropriate state funds directly and does not specify any additional costs or funding sources for administering the waiver. Any financial implications would largely depend on the frequency and scope of emergency declarations that trigger the waiver, as well as the number of unemployment claims processed under these circumstances.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This legislation aims to provide immediate financial relief to unemployed individuals during federally or state-declared disasters. The ability to waive the waiting period could enhance economic stability for affected workers and their families.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill could expedite the delivery of unemployment benefits during emergencies, reducing financial hardships for displaced workers.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DHSEM is unaware of the administrative implications.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

No technical issues have been identified at this time. The language of the bill is clear in its intent and does not appear to create inconsistencies with existing statutory provisions.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without this legislation, individuals who lose employment due to federally or state-declared emergencies will still be subject to the mandatory one-week waiting period before receiving benefits. This could result in increased financial strain for affected workers and delays in economic relief during critical times. The absence of a statutory waiver mechanism may also limit the state's ability to respond efficiently to workforce disruptions caused by natural disasters, public health crises, or other emergencies.

AMENDMENTS