

LFC Requester:	Hilla, Emily
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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: 3/6/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 308 cs Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Derrick J. Lente **Agency Name and Code Number:** Secretary of State - 370
Gail Armstrong
Short Title: REMOVE MRGCD FROM LOCAL ELECTION ACT **Person Writing:** Lindsey Bachman
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(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						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

HB 308 removes elections for conservancy districts created and organized pursuant to The Conservancy Act of New Mexico from the Regular Local Election.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

While the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) does not foresee a fiscal impact should the bill pass, it anticipates significant costs should the bill not pass.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The House Judiciary Committee's Committee Substitute for HB 308 expands the provisions of the original version of the bill to include the Arch Hurley Conservancy District. Conservancy districts created and organized pursuant to The Conservancy Act of New Mexico have never been part of the Regular Local Election.

The SOS has spent years receiving feedback from the MRGCD and the six pueblos located within MRGCD's boundaries. Based on that work, the technical requirements associated with the district's inclusion may be administratively unworkable and certainly would present challenges to ensure all existing eligible voters in the district are able to continue to participate.

Section 4 of HB 308 requires the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) to publish election information via proclamation prior to future elections, sets a date for the election to occur, gives the district rulemaking authority regarding election processes and permits the district to utilize elections procedures as outlined in the Election Code. The bill further provides that the district may conduct its elections "by paper ballot, electronic voting machine or any other state-certified tabulating voting machine." The SOS intends to provide feedback and input on the district's rulemaking process should HB 308 pass.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Should HB 308 not pass, the SOS would be required to administer elections for the MRGCD and Arch Hurley Conservancy District as part of the November 2025 Regular Local Election. The voters of these districts would require a unique and separate process based on varying definitions of qualified elector that would occur simultaneously with existing processes for statewide elections. The new process would demand a great amount of time and significant financial

resources in order for implementation to proceed securely and timely.

AMENDMENTS

