

LFC Requester:	Scott Sanchez
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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: 13 FEB 2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB354 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: T. Lujan & D. Hochman-Vigil **Agency Name and Code** 790 – Department of Public Safety
Short Title: Community Criminal Justice **Number:** _____
Diversion Project **Person Writing** Dale R. Wagoner
Phone: 50-629-2803 **Email:** dale.wagoner@dps.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
NFI	NFI	NFI	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	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	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

Creates a six-year pilot project called the Community Criminal Justice Diversion Project within the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) of the Health Care Authority. Also creates a fund to support the diversion of certain offenders from the criminal justice system to community-based services and treatment with the stated aim of reducing crime, homelessness and recidivism and improving public health. The project would be administered by BHSD and implemented by the state or local units of government in a minimum of five counties across the state. BHSD is charged with developing a budget with Medicaid dollars for the project and submitting it to an agency within another branch of government, the Legislative Finance Committee, for budget approval.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Diversion programs are a proven approach to enhancing public safety, promoting social stability, and reducing criminal behavior by redirecting individuals away from the traditional criminal justice system. Instead of incarceration, these programs offer intensive case management services that focus on addressing the root causes of criminal behavior. Through personalized support, individuals are connected with vital resources such as housing, employment opportunities, education, and mental health services—empowering them to build stable, fulfilling lives.

However, the successful implementation of diversion programs hinges on a collaborative, multi-sector effort. Achieving meaningful outcomes requires the active involvement of behavioral health providers, substance use disorder treatment organizations, local government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. By working together, we can create a comprehensive support network that addresses the complex challenges faced by individuals in need.

The Department of Public Safety is a strong proponent of these programs, recognizing their potential to reshape the landscape of criminal justice. By focusing on restorative solutions rather than punitive measures, diversion programs offer a pathway for individuals caught in the cycle of low-level offenses to receive the care and resources they need, fostering rehabilitation and breaking down the factors that drive criminal behavior. This approach not only benefits individuals but strengthens our communities by reducing recidivism and promoting long-term public safety.

New Mexico State Police has been an active member in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD) in San Miguel and Taos Counties in the past.

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

Status Quo would remain.

AMENDMENTS

None.