

LFC Requester:

Julisa Rodriguez

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: 1/28/25

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SB156

Original Correction

Amendment Substitute

Agency Name and Code Number: HCA-630

Sponsor: Sen. Stefanics
Exempt low income customers from utility rate riders

Person Writing Analysis: Felice Trujillo

Short Title: _____

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
None	None	None	None

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
None	None	None	None	None

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
GF	None	\$1,213.8	\$1,213.8	\$2,427.6	Recurring	GF
FF	None	\$2,356.2	\$2,356.2	\$4,712.4	Recurring	FF
Total	None	\$3,570.0	\$3,570.0	\$7,140.0	Recurring	

(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:

Senate Bill 156 (SB 156) amends the Public Utility Act to exempt low-income customers from the imposition of interconnected customer rate riders, applicable to new interconnected customers, to recover certain costs. It provides instruction for the qualification of low-income customers. It alphabetizes definitions and adds a new definition for “Low Income Customer”. SB 156 explains how a customer can qualify as a “Low Income Customer” and to become exempt from Rate Riders for the new interconnected customers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 156 will require a total of 1 FTE per each county office. HCA has a total of 33 county offices statewide and will need an additional 33 FTE. The cost of the additional FTE is stated below in the chart.

# of FTE	Division	Title	Range	Hourly rate	Annual Salaries	Insurance Rate Bi-weekly	Group Insurance	PERA	FICA	RHC	Total Benefits	TOTAL Cost	FFP*	GF Need	FF Need
33	ISD	Family Assistant Analyst	60	25.76	1,775,000.00	225.03	196,800	341,500	135,800	35,500	709,600.00	2,484,600	50%	1,242,300	1,242,300

Other Operating Costs:	per person	3 fte	GF	FF
542100 - Instate M & F	200	6,600	3,300	3,300
542200 - Instate M & L	600	19,800	9,900	9,900
544100 - Office Supplies	1,200	39,600	19,800	19,800
544900 - Invent Exempt	5,600	184,800	92,400	92,400
546600 - Telecomm	3,000	99,000	49,500	49,500
	10,600	349,800	174,900	174,900

	TC	GF	FF
TOTAL Salaries and Benefits	2,834,400	1,417,200	1,417,200

Along with an additional 33 FTE, the cost to print notices will be \$454.7 and the cost of postage to mail proof of eligibility to the customer will be \$280.8, for a total cost of \$735.5.

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be

reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HCA administers SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and LIHEAP. SB 156 outlines that a customer can provide proof of enrollment in the low-income programs to qualify as a low-income customer. HCA could see an increase in phone calls or through the door numbers as the customers could be requesting this verification. To prevent phone calls or in-person visits the customer could access the proof of enrollment through Unified Portal (UP).

There is a web-based service that exists that provides information on Medicaid and SNAP enrollment for the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Lifeline program for low-cost cell phone and internet service. If there is a future need to allow public electric utility companies to query this information, detailed discovery sessions would be required to estimate the cost and timeline for the needed IT changes.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

Being that this bill focuses on a Low-Income based program, HCA suggests amending the definition of “Low-Income Customer” to include financial requirements that correlate with the existing similar program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP provides home energy cost assistance to customers whose income is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status Quo

AMENDMENTS

None