

**LFC Requester:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 Regular Session**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

Check all that apply:  
**Original**     X  **Amendment**    \_\_\_\_\_  
**Correction**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Substitute**    \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**  2/6/2025   
**Bill No:**  SB291

**Sponsor:**  Sen. Crystal Brantley   
**Short Title:**  Enforcement of Game & Fish Laws

**Agency Name and Code**     EMNRD 521   
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing**     Toby Velasquez   
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	N/A	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	Nonrecurring	OSF

(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**

SB291 relates to enforcement of state laws and provides that law enforcement officers employed by the State Parks Division (SPD) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department shall enforce New Mexico Department of Game and Fish laws. SB291 also provides conservation officers with the authority to enforce provisions of the Criminal Code, Motor Vehicle Code, and the Boat Act.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SPD maintains 79 law enforcement officers across the state parks system. SPD estimates that approximately \$100,000 of operating budget will be needed to train their law enforcement officers to enforce Chapter 17 NMSA 1978. This estimate is based on the amount of training required hours, travel cost to and from, and per diem related costs.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

None.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Section 16-2-30(A) NMSA 1978 provides SPD law enforcement officers with general police power and authority to enforce state laws within state parks. SPD law enforcement authority is general but limited only within state parks except as provided by Section 16-2-30(B) for emergency situations. As proposed by SB291, SPD enforcement authority of Section 17-2-19 NMSA 1978 would only occur within state parks.

Enabling New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) conservation officers to enforce the Boat Act will be a force multiplier in the field. Department conservation officers patrol within state parks as well as on navigable waters outside of state parks. As proposed by SB291, this expanded authority for Department conservation officers will more broadly promote and support recreational boating safety, education, and enforcement.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

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

None.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

SB291 does not contemplate authorizing Department conservation officers to enforce the Boating While Intoxicated Act [NMSA 66-13-1].

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

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

Law enforcement officers employed by SPD will not be authorized to enforce Department laws. Department conservation officers will not have the authority to enforce provisions of the Criminal Code, Motor Vehicle Code, and the Boat Act.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.