

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: 5 MARCH 2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 353 cs Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Jeff Steinborn & Shannon Pinto **Agency Name and Code** 790 – Department of Public Safety
Short Title: Search and Rescue Emergency Reports **Number:** _____
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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

Senate Bill 353 (SB353) Amends the Search and Rescue Act to ensure potential SAR incidents are reported to the “Control Agency”, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, and to provide a timely response of state-certified Search and Rescue personnel and equipment.

Senate Bill 353cs changes are: Section 1 Definitions- added M. Tribe or Tribal; Section 2 added to paragraph A-elaborated on consultation process; Section 3 Notification Protocols—was elaborated on notification protocols. **DPS agreed to the amendments and agreed to them during the committee.**

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact to DPS.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

No significant issues to DPS.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico Department of Public Safety firmly believes there will be no impacts on the performance of state, county, and local law enforcement agencies, county or local fire departments, or emergency dispatch/public service access points throughout the State. Furthermore, if adopted, the amendments will ensure a timely response of highly trained and low-cost Search and Rescue resources to incidents that are determined to meet the Search and Rescue criteria.

The training of standardized criteria, i.e. Search and Rescue criteria established by SB353 to be provided to personnel employed in emergency response, emergency dispatch and public service access points will be accomplished by utilizing existing methods for training of emergency dispatchers and public services access points. Search and Rescue criteria have also been established but will need to be “fine-tuned” for a complete understanding by emergency dispatchers and public service access points. As outlined in SB353, fine-tuning will be accomplished in communications with state, county, and local emergency responders to ensure a complete understanding of the criteria.

This bill is a step forward in improving the efficiency and coordination of search and rescue efforts in New Mexico. By establishing standardized protocols, ensuring quick deployment of resources, fostering collaboration among agencies, and improving training for emergency responders, the bill aligns with the DPS’ goals of enhancing public safety, minimizing response times, and ensuring that search and rescue operations are effective and coordinated across jurisdictions.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico Department of Public Safety believes that the adoption of the amendment will increase the accuracy of data about SAR incidents currently maintained by the Search and Rescue Resource Officer by reporting potential and actual incidents to the “Control Agency.” It also believes there will be no impact on the administrative duties of the Search and Rescue Resource Officer.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

No conflict, duplication, companionship or relationship to DPS.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

No technical issues to DPS.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

No other substantive issues to DPS.

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable as no impact to DPS.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status Quo will remain.

AMENDMENTS

None at this time.