

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Connor Jorgensen</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 2-16-2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB 366 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Sen. Linda M. López **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952  
**Short Title:** Children's Code Reform **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Task Force Funding **Person Writing** Lenaya Montoya  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
0	\$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(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
<b>Total</b>	No fiscal impact	indeterminate	No fiscal impact	indeterminate	Nonrecurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: SB 366 appropriates two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for fiscal year 2026 for the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice to continue the work of the Children's Code Reform Task Force in reviewing and recommending revisions to the Children's Code.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$200.0 contained in this bill is not a recurring expense. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of FY2026 is to revert to the general fund.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

This bill will provide funding for a part of the salary of the director of the Corinne Wolfe Center, and 2 contractors as staff, with a small amount reserved for printing. Based on past funding for the Children's Code Reform Task Force of \$75,000.00 for about 6 months' work - by contract from the Administrative Office of the Courts, and \$50,000 for approximately 4 months work - from the Annie E. Casey foundation, and supplemented by the portion of salary that was unreimbursed for the director of the Corinne Wolfe Center during those 10 months, \$200,000.00 should enable the Corinne Wolfe Center to continue the work of the task force for a year in reviewing and making recommendations for changes to the Children's code.

Further, the task force members volunteer their time, or the time of their organizations for a minimum of 5 hours a month. Although many members may ask to stay on, a new task force will need to be built of about 20 members, drawing from those members and others who express interest and have expertise in relevant areas of the law. If we extrapolate the value of their work and expertise at \$50 an hour, this represents a value of about \$60,000 for a year. The last 2 iterations of the task force have depended on contracted staff who conduct research, write, and assist with drafting.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

As the task force is made up of volunteers, along with a chair and 2 staff, there is no guarantee of participation by these subject matter experts at any given time.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

No administrative impact is anticipated.

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

The bill would be in addition to recurring funding that the Corinne Wolfe Center (misspelled Corrine Wolfe in previous appropriation bills) has received for many years to increase the effectiveness of civil and criminal proceedings related to child abuse and neglect and other proceedings under the New Mexico Children's Code by improving the skills of the professionals

involved in these cases.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

No technical issues are noted.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

It will be necessary to decide if funds should pay more salary for additional personnel at UNM or if the experienced contractors will be retained.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Some group or organization could apply for private funds to conduct this public work.

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

If this bill is not enacted it is unlikely additional, private, funding will be identified, and the work will not continue.

### **AMENDMENTS**

None, currently.