

LFC Requester:

Emily Hilla

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}

Date Prepared: February 21, 2025

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SB 457

Original Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Agency Name and Code Number: 305 – New Mexico Department of Justice

Person Writing

Short Title: LOW-INCOME CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	\$20,000,000	Recurring	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
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: None identified
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: HB 529 and SB 442
 (discussed in greater detail below)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

This analysis is neither a formal Opinion nor an Advisory Letter issued by the New Mexico Department of Justice. This is a staff analysis in response to a committee or legislator’s request. The analysis does not represent any official policy or legal position of the NM Department of Justice.

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 457 will appropriate \$20,000,000 from the general fund to the civil legal services fund for the fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years to provide civil legal services to low-income persons. Any remaining unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of the fiscal year will not revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB 529 appropriates \$14,000,000 from the general fund to the civil legal services fund specifically related to housing. There could be overlap between the recipients of HB 529 and this SB 457.

SB 442, General Appropriate Act of 2025, appears to already allocate funds to the civil legal services funds, thus making SB 457 additional.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB 457 does not define “low-income persons.”

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

N/A