

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

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(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: January 27, 2026 **Check all that apply:**
Bill Number: HR 1 **Original** X **Correction**
 Amendment **Substitute**

Sponsor:	Rep. Andrea Romero, Rep. Marianna Anaya, & Rep. Andrea Reeb	Agency Name and Code Number:	State Ethics Commission (410)
Short Title:	House Investigatory Subcommittee	Person Writing Phone:	Caroline Chato <u>362-9617</u> Email <u>caroline.chato@sec.nm.gov</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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: House Resolution 1 would authorize the speaker of the House to appoint a special committee of the house of representatives to investigate Zorro ranch and related allegations of criminal activity to determine whether legislation or other legislative action is needed to prevent and properly punish crime, protect children and other vulnerable persons, establish sufficient procedures for securing civil justice, ensure proper use and stewardship of public money and resources, and provide for public accountability. The subcommittee would be composed of two members from the majority party and two members from the minority party, with the speaker designating a chair from the appointed members, and would continue after the legislative session but not longer than December 31, 2026. House Resolution 1 vests the committee with all necessary powers and process to conduct the investigation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The State Ethics Commission is created by the New Mexico Constitution as a bipartisan, independent state agency which “may initiate, receive, investigate and adjudicate complaints alleging violations of, and issue advisory opinions concerning, standards of ethical conduct and other standards of conduct and reporting requirements, as may be provided by law, for state officers and employees of the executive and legislative branches of government, candidates or other participants in elections, lobbyists or government contractors or seekers of government contracts and have such other jurisdiction as provided by law.” N.M. Const. art. V, § 17(B). The Legislature has identified in the State Ethics Commission Act ten laws under the Commission’s authority, and has identified authorities for the Commission under other specific laws (for example, the Nondisclosure of Sensitive Personal Information Act, NMSA 1978, § 10-16I-1 to -4 (2025)). House Resolution 1 would create an investigative subcommittee of the house of representatives to investigate certain criminal activity and determine whether additional legislative action is necessary to prevent and properly punish crime, protect vulnerable persons, establish procedures for securing civil justice, ensuring proper use and stewardship of public money and resources, and provide for public accountability. Of these actions, it is the last two that are most likely to touch on work under the Commission’s purview. If the Commission were to receive information alleging violations of the statutes under its purview, it could adjudicate or investigate and file a civil enforcement action related to the violation. Where the Commission reaches a decision following a finding of probable cause or enters into a settlement with a respondent who is subject to impeachment, the Commission is required to provide that decision to the house of representatives or if the respondent is a member of the legislature to the appropriate legislative body. The State Ethics Commission Act also permits the Commission to investigate a complaint referred to the Commission by the legislature, or a legislative committee, “in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to policies of the New Mexico legislative council or rules of the house of representatives or senate” (although there currently is no such agreement in place). Given this framework, the Commission’s work would not directly

intersect with the subcommittee proposed in House Resolution 1, but might involve overlapping areas of concern.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS