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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-16-09

SPONSOR Trujillo LAST UPDATED _____ HB 551

SHORT TITLE Espanola-Area Therapy Services SB _____

ANALYST Aubel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

No Responses From

Humans Services Department (HSD)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 551 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for Espanola-area cognitive, speech, language and other therapy services, rehabilitation and diagnostic testing for persons with brain injuries, closed head traumas and related problems.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY10 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Aging and Long Term Services Department administers a brain injury program, funded through Medicaid by the Health and Human Services Department. The Development Disabilities Planning Council advises the agencies on the program.

It is not known if HB 551 is a continuation of services or a new service that is going to be established. Other than the fact the appropriation is for the Espanola area and its purpose, it is not clear whether the county or the municipality will administer this grant. One of them will be providing these services for \$100,000 if the bill is enacted.

DFA suggests that Department of Health would be the appropriate agency to have direct oversight over this legislation because of their vast expertise in the areas covered in this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the agency, neither the County of Rio Arriba nor the City of Espanola has been notified of this proposed legislation. That raises the question as to which entity will be fiscally responsible for administering the project.

If the appropriation is made to LGD, this division will oversee the appropriation but does not have expertise in health-related areas such as brain injury.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The consequences of not enacting this legislation may prevent or delay cognitive, speech, language and other therapy services, rehabilitation and diagnostic testing for persons with brain injuries, closed head traumas and related problems for the residents of the Espanola area.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Is this appropriation for a new program?
2. What services currently exist in the Espanola area for brain injury patients?
3. Who would deliver the services?
4. Who would be the fiscal agent in Espanola?

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