

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/09/09

SPONSOR Rodella LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 19

SHORT TITLE E911 Committee Recommendations to Legislature SB _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
 Department of Information Technology (DoIT)
 Public Regulation Commission (PRC)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD)

No Response

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 19 requests that local level E911 Advisory Committees and the State E911 Coordinating Committee (created by the Governor's Executive Orders 2007-005 and 2007-006 respectively) work closely together to refine procedures and involve all appropriate agencies. The E911 is a telecommunications system that automatically identifies a physical address or location from the calling party's telephone number and routes the call to the closest or most appropriate Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) for that address or location.

Specifically, the committees are requested to involve the Department of Finance and Administration, the Taxation and Revenue department, the Department Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Information Technology, the New Mexico State

House Joint Memorial 19 – Page 2

Police, the Department of Public Safety, the Public Regulation Commission, and the Department of Health to address this important issue.

The Committees are also requested to review pertinent state law with a focus on identifying conflicts, overlaps or uncoordinated policies and present their findings and recommendations to the Information Technology and Telecommunications Oversight Committee or its Successor Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee and the Office of the Governor by October 31, 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Joint Memorial 19 makes no appropriations. It is assumed participating agencies can conduct the House Joint Memorial 19 activities with existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The DoIT notes that its Cabinet Secretary is a member of the E911 state coordinating committee. The Secretary is also charged with Information Technology oversight on the DFA E911 Information Technology project(s).

The DOH reports that funding of E911 services is currently fragmented and unreliable. In addition, there is no State oversight of the E911 system, minimum operating standards for PSAPs do not exist, and responders are compromised due to a lack of communications interoperability. As a result, the quality of service statewide is uneven and New Mexico residents can not be assured of a consistent response to their needs.

The DOH further notes that House Joint Memorial 19 requires the E911 committees to work with and gain concurrence of several State agencies which should ensure acceptance of the recommendations and compliance with their implementation. The lack of State oversight and minimum operations standards for the E911 system continue to negatively impact all New Mexicans who require E911-related emergency response services. House Joint Memorial 19 would begin to address the many gaps in the E911 system through a well developed set of recommendations that include clear standards for operating statewide.

The DFA Local Government Division (LGD) provided the following comments. The LGD finds it is very significant that these two committees report their findings and recommendations to the Information Technology and Telecommunications Oversight Committee as required in House Joint Memorial 19. The Sept 11 World Trade Center incident highlighted serious shortcomings that occur when responders cannot communicate with each other to achieve a coordinated response to emergencies. Solving issues around end-to-end communication, interoperability and funding in emergency response is critical to public safety in New Mexico. It requires joint and coordinated effort from all the participating local, state and telecommunications entities. Because of the importance of the issues, the state of New Mexico E-911 program is providing administrative support to both of these committees.

The DFA LGD is concerned that House Joint Memorial 19's presentation may confuse the NM E911 program with the larger emergency response system. E911 is only a small part of the emergency response system. The New Mexico Enhanced 911 Act is not intended, nor has it ever been intended, to fund the broader emergency response system. Expanding allowable E911

funding to include costs of the emergency response system would significantly increase the current E911 surcharge of \$.51 per month on each landline and cell phone. The New Mexico E911 fund, totally supported by a surcharge levied on one industry, telecommunications, is best focused on funding technology to locate callers, not the broader emergency response system.

The DFA LGD believes it is critical that in their work these two committees look beyond the E911 to other departments and sources of funds for the emergency response system.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The DOH reports that House Joint Memorial 19 addresses the DOH Strategic Plan 2010, Community Objective 3: Ensure preparedness for health emergencies, including pandemic influenza.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The DFA Local Government Division states that House Joint Memorial 19 should clarify that the Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at the Department of Health, the New Mexico E-911 program, local and state law enforcement, fire, local governments all have responsibility for operations and funding of the state emergency response system.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

According to the DFA Local Government Division, if this joint memorial is not passed, DFA and the Governor's Office would convey the work of these committees to the legislature.

CH/mt/mc