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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/09

SPONSOR Feldman LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Voluntary Autism Registry SB 43

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 34, Autistic Child Services Medicaid Plan Waiver and SB 39, Insurance Coverage for Autism Treatment

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$200.0	\$200.0	\$400.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 43, Voluntary Autism Registry, appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to DOH for the purpose of implementing a voluntary, statewide identification and registration program for autism spectrum disorders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The LFC submitted a balanced general fund appropriation recommendation for fiscal year 2010. Any additional general fund expenditures appropriated by the Legislature must be off-set by an equal amount from the appropriation recommendation.

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.

DOH states the registry proposed was included as a recommendation from the task force resulting from Laws 2007, Chapter 107, Insurance Coverage for Certain Disorders, which proposed a statewide ASD surveillance and registration program. The purpose of the system would be to count and describe all individuals in New Mexico affected by ASD in order to assess this health problem and to plan and target needed services. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that ASD affects one child in every 150.

DOH estimates that design, piloting and implementation of the project would take two years.

DDPC reports the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is rising, with figures ranging from 10-17 percent per year. A statewide identification and registration program will provide data allowing appropriate planning for services from DOH, PED, HSD and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

HSD states it would be helpful to have more accurate statistics regarding the extent of autism spectrum disorders.

PED states there would be an additional cost to the department if it is asked to pre-populate the registry from information collected in the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System. It also states the registry will need to be updated and maintained for tracking individuals entering or leaving the state.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If this bill is enacted, DOH and other anticipated users will have to determine the type of surveillance activity to use (active or passive), the sources of data, and the case definition of ASD. Common definitions would need to be developed to be used by health providers to ensure reliability of data. These, plus other actions, would need to be completed before the registry is designed. DOH states that other states tracking this information have 1.5 FTE assigned to manage and analyze the database.

Senate Bill 43 – Page 3

DOH reports that Administrative Code 7.4.3.13 NMAC, Notifiable Diseases or Condition in New Mexico, would have to be revised.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HPC reports that New Jersey, Delaware and Utah are using autism registries.

ALTERNATIVES

The registry could be developed for a smaller geographic area to test it.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The state will not have a database of individuals with ASD.

GAC/mt