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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/09

SPONSOR Feldman LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Interim Human Services Committee SB 242

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 172 Interim Human Services Committee

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)
 General Services Department (GSD)
 New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 Workforce Solutions Department (WSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 242, Interim Human Services Committee, reorganizes legislative interim committees from the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Welfare Reform Oversight Committee to the Legislative Health Committee and the Human Services Committee.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 242 is sponsored by the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. The bill would abolish the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. The Welfare Reform Oversight Committee authority ended December 31, 2008.

The Legislative Health Committee would be created to replace the current Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. The committee would be composed of fourteen voting members, seven from the Senate and seven from the House of Representatives. The House Health and Government Affairs Committee and the Senate Public Affairs Committee would have a representative on the committee. The committee members would be appointed for the terms of two years or less, expiring on the first day of each regular legislative session that convenes in an odd-numbered year.

The Legislative Health Committee would study and conduct oversight of the programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to health care services and health coverage, including review and study of the statutes, constitutional provisions, regulations and court decisions governing such programs, agencies and issues. The committee shall oversee all aspects of medical assistance programs and other health-related programs of HSD, DOH, ALTSD, and CYFD. The Committee shall make an annual report of its findings and recommendation and recommend any necessary legislation to each session of the legislature. The report and suggested legislation shall be made available to the New Mexico Legislative Council on or before December 15 proceeding each session.

In addition, the bill would establish a “health unit” within the Legislative Council Service staffed by persons knowledgeable and proficient in the areas of health coverage and delivery of health care services, health care economics, research, and law or policy analysis. The health unit would staff the legislative Health Committee, conduct research and develop policy options regarding health coverage and access to health care services, provider supply and quality of health care services, health coverage and other health issues.

The Human Services Committee would replace the Welfare Reform Oversight Committee and be composed of twelve members. The New Mexico Legislative Council would appoint six members of the House of Representatives and six members from the Senate. At the time of making the appointment, the legislative council shall designate the chair and vice chair of the committee. The committee will conduct continuing study and oversight of the programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs relating to human services in New Mexico, including review and study of the statutes, constitutional provisions, regulations and court decisions governing such programs, agencies, policies, issues and needs; study the full continuum of programs and services available and needed for children, families and the aging population; and prepare and publish by December 15 of each year for the upcoming legislative session an annual report of it findings and recommendation relating to the adoption of rules and legislation, if any are found to be necessary. The Committee would regularly receive testimony for the Secretaries of Human Services; Workforce Solutions; Children, Youth and Families; and the Public Education on issues arising from the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act and shall review proposed rules, schedules and formulae before adoption.

The bill differs from SB 172 in the size of the Legislative Health Committee (14 members instead of eight) representation from the House Health and Government Affairs and Senate Public Affairs Committees, and creation of the health unit in the Legislative Council Services staff. The appointment authority for members of the Health Committee from the Senate is the Committees’ Committee of the Senate and House members by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Human Services Committee has oversight of The Higher Education Department in SB 172 but is not mentioned in this bill.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would more clearly establish the responsibilities of the new committees eliminating overlap and duplication.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Welfare Reform Oversight Committee authorization expired on December 15, 2008.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The appointment authority for members of the two committees is different. The authority for the Health Committee is the Senate Committee's Committee and the Speaker of the House; the authority for the Human Services Committee is the Legislative Council. Recommend the appointment authority be reviewed and changed to be consistent.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee would assume all responsibilities of the Welfare Reform Oversight Committee.

GAC/mc