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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodriguez **LAST UPDATED** _____
ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/23
BILL
SHORT TITLE Services for Homeless People **NUMBER** Senate Bill 139
ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$20,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
BHSD admin costs		\$380.3	\$380.3	\$760.6	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 139

Senate Bill 139 would appropriate \$20 million from the general fund to the Human Services Department to provide people who are homeless with access to substance use disorder treatment, behavioral health services, and supportive housing.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$20 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

The Human Services Department reports its Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) currently administers \$4.3 million for similar efforts as provided for in SB139.

BHSD reports administering the provisions of the bill would require 2 FTE. Calculated at a level 70 pay band, the additional staff would cost \$180,300, including salary, fringe benefits, and operations costs. Another \$200 thousand would be needed for technical assistance for an external contractor.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HSD indicates the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness *Point in Time* report states 2,293 households were experiencing homelessness as of January 2022.

BHSD administers the Linkages program, a tenant-based permanent supportive housing program for homeless adults diagnosed with serious mental illness and function impairments. Linkages is projected to serve approximately 338 households with a rental assistance voucher in FY23.

The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) also provides rental assistance for extremely low-income households in eight sites throughout New Mexico.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

BHSD oversees the Linkages program's support service agencies composed of 11 providers throughout New Mexico. These providers screen for eligibility and refer Linkages applicants to the housing administrator for service planning, crisis prevention and intervention, comprehensive community support services, resource coordination, skill building, symptom management assistance, landlord advocacy, and eviction prevention. Linkages clients are also provided support for accessing government benefits. Up to 98 percent of Linkages rental assistance vouchers are utilized.

DOH reports research has shown supportive housing has positive effects on housing stability, employment, mental and physical health, and school attendance.

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