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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/15

SPONSOR Cervantes LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Emergency Broadcasters and Emergency Equipment SB 447

ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications	See Fiscal Implications	See Fiscal Implications	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 447 creates a new section of law allowing for DHSEM to coordinate with broadcasting or cable television telecommunication associations to develop comprehensive coordinated plans for preparing and responding to emergencies or disasters. The bill also allows for statewide organizations, representing broadcasters, to train and certify broadcast engineers and technical personnel as “first informer broadcasters”. The training and certification, in the case of an emergency, shall be approved by DHSEM; be consistent with federal law and guidelines; and, include education in restoring, repairing, and resupplying facilities or equipment of a broadcaster. The bill would also allow “first informer broadcasters” to access areas affected by emergencies or disasters to restore, repair, or resupply broadcasters. The bill also defines “broadcaster” and “first informer broadcaster”.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DHSEM stated that there would be not fiscal impact to the agency.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DHSEM provided the following:

DHSEM currently does not provide certification or licensure to responders and is not equipped to do so, nor does the department have the technical knowledge or expertise to train on how to restore, repair, or resupply broadcast equipment. DHSEM can provide training on Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning to ensure organizational operability, but not technical equipment functionality. In partnering with local broadcaster associations, the Department could work on coordination.

Local jurisdictions, State Police, or incident management teams control disaster scenes and access to them. The intent of responders is not to impede repair, but to ensure the incident scene is safe before allowing work crew access. Similarly, utility companies are allowed access to incident scenes once safe. DHSEM works with local jurisdictions, State Police or incident management teams allowing access to damaged broadcast equipment or facilities if the NMBA requests access through the State Emergency Operations Center. This coordination, during an emergency, can be done through DHSEM public information officers.

DHSEM currently works with the New Mexico Broadcasters Association (NMBA) on emergency notifications and planning, including Joint Information System guidelines. DHSEM will continue to work with the NMBA on emergency public information planning. Additionally the department is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on acquiring licensure for the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS), which will allow the state to better broadcast messages in cooperation with media partners. The Department is hoping to begin implementation this year.

EC/bb