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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Griego ORIGINAL DATE 02/24/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Study Emergency Medical Services Funding SM 53
ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	NA		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
New Mexico Municipal League (NMML)
Public Regulations Commission (PRC)
Medical Board (MB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 53 requests the Emergency Medical Systems Bureau of the Department of Health initiate a study to examine certification, licensing, re-licensing and funding options for emergency medical response services, including the advantages and disadvantages of non-profit contractual services or direct government services, volunteer or paid services, departments attached to fire departments or independent services, service levels, geographical limitations and other factors. SM 53 also asks that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the Secretary of Health, the EMS Bureau Chief, the executive director of the New Mexico association of counties and the executive director of the New Mexico municipal league.

Senate Memorial 53 recognizes that the availability and provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the rural area is critical. It also states that the provision of EMS by rural local governments is difficult due to a lack of available funding.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Municipalities and particularly small rural municipalities face difficult choices when it comes to funding emergency medical systems (EMT and Paramedic). This legislation would at least begin a dialogue on what can be done to increase funding for emergency medical systems, especially in small rural communities.

The membership of the New Mexico Municipal League has endorsed increasing funding for emergency medical services through adoption of a resolution. The New Mexico Municipal League supports this memorial.

The costs of certification and licensure of caregivers has increased over the last several years, as have the cost of operation of an EMS agency. Volunteerism in the rural areas has also decreased for several reasons. The DOH, EMS Bureau recognizes that the memorial would provide an opportunity to study current challenges with rural EMS stakeholders to develop potential solutions for these issues.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Relates to DOH FY16 Strategic Plan, Result 1: Improved Health Outcomes for the People of New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The memorial will require DOH EMS Bureau staff members to convene a stakeholder group to investigate and discuss the challenges facing the rural county governments in the provision of EMS. This group would need to meet multiple times. EMS Bureau staff would develop the final report and deliver it to the requested recipients.

BD/bb