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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto ORIGINAL DATE 02/19/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation SM 31

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 31 requests that the N.M. congressional delegation be requested to continue to support federal legislation to expand and improve compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). From 1945 to 1962, the U.S. conducted nuclear weapons development and testing that required uranium to be mined and processed in many areas, especially N.M, and uranium deposits have been found on or near the Navajo Nation. This exposure has been linked to serious illnesses in exposed individuals, and thousands of individuals were exposed.

The memorial goes on to say that in 1990, the U.S. Congress passed RECA but only designated certain areas of Arizona and Utah as official downwind areas for which compensation would be paid, and limited that compensation only to those workers employed before January 1, 1972. In 2013, U.S. Representative Ben Lujan introduced HR 1645, and in 2015, US Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich signed onto SB 331, which would have extended compensation to uranium workers exposure from 1972 to 1990, expanded the list of eligible workers, added New Mexico to the list of downwind areas, made claims eligible for up to \$150 thousand of compensation, and expanded the types of medical conditions that render claimants eligible for compensation.

On January 24, 2017, U.S. SB 197 was introduced to amend RECA to improve compensation for uranium mining workers and Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich cosponsored the bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

This memorial will not be transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

AHO/al