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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Taylor, JP	DATE TYPED:	02/01/00	HB	124
SHORT TITLE:	Prenatal and Pediatric Services for the Uninsured			SB	
				ANALYST:	Esquibel

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	\$ 1,500.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB2, SB2; Duplicates SB53

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

NM Health Policy Commission

Department of Health

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The bill appropriates \$1,500.0 to the Department of Health (DOH) to contract for a comprehensive prenatal and pediatric health care program, emphasizing prevention and early detection, for uninsured women and children in southern New Mexico.

Significant Issues

Data from the Health Policy Commission's 1999 household survey indicate there may be areas in the northern half of the state of equal or greater need of the services provided for in House Bill 124.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill appropriates \$1,500.0 in general fund in FY01 to DOH.

The services funded in the bill are also available from funding under the Maternal and Child Health Act and the Healthier Kids Fund.

The bill does not indicate that the appropriation would be used to leverage federal Medicaid funds for which these services qualify. Leveraging this appropriation would generate \$4.5 in federal Medicaid funds.

The Health Policy Commission indicates the following programs already provide funding with state general fund for prenatal and pediatric services:

- Prenatal and pediatric care including EPSDT (early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment) benefits for children are currently provided through Medicaid. Currently, pregnant women and children are covered by Medicaid up to 185% of the federal poverty level (\$30,895 for a family of four in 1999). Children without health insurance during the previous 12 months are covered from 186% to 235% of the federal poverty level by Medicaid.
- Maternal and Child Health Councils in almost every county are eligible for funding (general fund) from DOH to meet outreach and other services for pregnant women and children.
- Healthier Kids Fund administered by DOH provides reimbursement for primary care and other services for children not covered by Medicaid.
- Community Health Centers receiving funding from the state through the Rural Primary Health Care Act and the federal government provide primary care and, in many cases, prenatal care for uninsured individuals.
- Counties may also cover a wide range of services, including preventive services, outreach, and medical care for medically indigent individuals by using funding from the County Indigent Fund program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH indicates if the intent of the bill is to create a new program, there could be a significant administrative impact on the department. However, if the bill expands current services, the administrative impact to DOH would be minimal.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

In House Bill 2/aHAFc and Senate Bill 2, the LFC FY01 budget recommendation for DOH budgets \$1,000.0 in tobacco settlement revenue for expansion of home visiting and prevention services as included in the provisions of House Bill 124.

HB124 also duplicates SB53.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not specify if DOH is to contract for a new program or to expand currently existing services by increasing insurance coverage for uninsured citizens by utilizing the Healthier Kids Fund.

The bill does not specify which geographic area of southern New Mexico would be covered under the provisions of the bill.

DOH indicates the bill needs to specify if funding should be targeted to areas where large numbers of uninsured persons live, or if the funding should be targeted to where perinatal and prenatal health indicators show the need for most improvement.

Additionally, the bill does not define "comprehensive program" nor define the components of such a program such as medical services versus prevention services.

RAE/njw