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### **FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**

SPONSOR:	Townsend	DATE TYPED:	02/08/00	HB	341
SHORT TITLE:	Hazardous Materials Task Force & Fund			SB	
				ANALYST:	Valenzuela

### **APPROPRIATION**

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### **REVENUE**

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01			
\$ (500.0)	\$ (500.0)	Indefinite	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 383

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

LFC Files

Public Regulation Commission (PRC)

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

## **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 341 adds a new section to the Fire Protection Fund Law [59A-53-1, NMSA1978] that creates the Hazardous Materials Task Force Fund to equip and train first responders to emergencies involving the transport of hazardous materials. The fund would be available to counties and incorporated municipalities through the State Fire Marshal's Office of the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). The bill identifies criteria for funding and limits for applicants. A percentage (1.25%) of the fire protection fund would be the revenue source. The bill contains a clause that would require the PRC to revert any unexpended balance to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year. The bill contains an emergency clause.

### Significant Issues

The purpose of the Fire Protection Fund Law is to provide for distribution of funds to incorporated cities, towns and villages, and to county fire districts, in proportion to their respective needs. The balance in the fund ranges from \$37 to \$41 million. Consequently, the effect of the bill would be to make an annual

appropriation from \$462.5 to \$512.5. Additionally, the fire protection fund reverts to the general fund, aside from the operating budgets for the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fire Training Academy. Therefore, House Bill 341 would reduce the available general fund by almost \$500.0.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SB342 reduces general fund revenue by an estimated \$500.0 beginning in FY00 and recurring annually. The funds are appropriated to the State Fire Marshal's office. Enactment would not have a fiscal impact on the State Fire Marshal's Office which already has mechanisms in place to distribute the funding to localities.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Enactment of House Bill 341 would have a minor impact on the agency, which could be absorbed with its existing resources.

MFV/gm