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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Roberts DATE TYPED: 01/25/02 HB 97

SHORT TITLE: Hazardous Materials Response Equipment SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST: Belmares

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$275.0			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 97 appropriates \$275.0 from the general fund for expenditure in FY02 and FY03 to purchase hazardous materials emergency response equipment for use by emergency response personnel at the Santa Teresa port of entry and vicinity.

#### Significant Issues

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) establishes HAZMAT (hazardous materials) response capability designations of "Awareness," "Operational" and "Technician." These HAZMAT response capability designations are associated with increasing HAZMAT response capabilities (training, equipment and competency to address HAZMAT situations). DPS indicates there is currently no Technician HAZMAT response capability within 50 miles of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry and the community of Santa Teresa. DPS expects U.S. Customs will open the border to HAZMAT shipments and Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

Under the Emergency Management Act, Chapter 74 Article 4B, DPS is responsible for coordinating all hazardous materials responses in the state. Without technical HAZMAT equipment readily

available, it would be difficult for DPS to address an incident or accident in the border region utilizing current resources.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$275.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund. DPS has indicated a \$275.0 appropriation would not cover the entire cost of developing a Technician level HAZMAT capability but would augment the equipment already purchased by local governments.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Are federal funds available for acquisition of this type of equipment ? If so, has DPS pursued such funding ?
2. DPS indicated “When U.S. Customs opens the border to HAZMAT shipments it will be imperative that there is a HAZMAT response capability.” When does DPS anticipate this will occur ?

EB/ar