



drugs. The department further notes that SJM 23 would require an annual review of the prescription drugs being taken by the senior citizen which will ensure that antagonistic drugs are identified and that the most appropriate drug regime is being pursued and will result in overall improved health outcomes for senior citizens who participate.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

**RELATIONSHIP**

SB 118 would appropriate \$115,000 for the expansion of the prescription drug outreach efforts of the State Agency on Aging.

SJM 22 requests a study regarding provision of free prescription, drugs to low-income senior citizens.

HB 149 appropriates \$25,000 to the State Agency on Aging for expenditure for the purpose of assessing the potential for initiating any necessary planning and waivers to establish a prescription bulk-purchasing program utilizing the special prescription drug purchasing prerogatives of one or more Native American prescription drug programs.

SB 9 creates a senior drug prescription program to provide a prescription drug benefit to New Mexico seniors who are residents of New Mexico, over the age of 65 years, and have no other prescription

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The sponsor of the bill may wish to define "Brown Bag".

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

HPC recognizes that senior citizens generally pay higher prices for prescription drugs, may not be taking their appropriate dosages due to cost or lack of knowledge, and may not realize that there could be alternative therapeutic or generic drugs, which would provide the same benefits at lower costs.

According to HPC annual "brown bag assessments" may reduce the number of preventable injuries that elderly people experience, often related to improper medication intake.

**BD/njw**