

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used for other purposes.

The most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Begaye DATE TYPED: 3/5/03 HB 785

SHORT TITLE: Navajo Speaker for Las Vegas Medical Center SB _____

ANALYST: Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$50.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 785 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Department of Health for expenditure in fiscal year 2004 for the purpose of hiring a clinical social worker for the Las Vegas medical center who is a native Navajo speaker.

Significant Issues

Currently a contracted interpreter provides Navajo language interpretation for patients. DOH states that there have been no known difficulties reported by either the Patient Advocate or the Protection and Advocacy System with the contractor. DOH emphasizes that patients at the Las Vegas Medical Center may have other language interpretation needs that are not addressed through HB 785. This bill limits interpretation services to only one language. DOH suggests that the appropriation might be better utilized by contracting with a national company that could provide interpretation services not only for Navajo patients but also for patients with other language

needs. It should also be noted that sign language for the deaf is also considered by the Las Vegas Medical Center under services required to provide appropriate patient care for those respective patients.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 04 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Currently this service is contracted. In Fiscal year 2002, the contractor provided 431 hours of Navajo interpretation. In this current Fiscal year, 2003, the contractor has provided 450 hours of Navajo interpretation through January 16, 2003. These services are provided as needed.

BD/njw