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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos DATE TYPED 1/30/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Navajo Speaker for Las Vegas Medical Center SB 193

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$50.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
Department of Finance (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 193 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for expenditure in fiscal year 2005 to hire a native Navajo speaking clinical social worker at the Las Vegas Medical Center (LVMC).

Significant Issues

Best practices require that clients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) be provided access to communication services and program supports. Currently Navajo interpretation for patients at LVMC is provided by a contracted interpreter. DOH reports there have been no known difficulties reported by either the Patient Advocate or the Protection and Advocacy System. Patients at the Las Vegas Medical Center may have other language interpretation needs not addressed by SB193. This bill limits interpretation services to only one language. The appropriation, DOH says, 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 05 shall revert to the General Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The amount of this appropriation may not be sufficient to cover salary and benefits for a full-time employee for a fiscal year.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB 193 only addresses Navajo interpretation and not the need for interpretation of other languages that patients may require at the Las Vegas Medical Center.

This bill requires "employment", which would prohibit LVMC from contracting for these services. The bill may be amended to provide for contracting such services.

BD/prr