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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Carraro DATE TYPED 2-14-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Breast Cancer Study SB 387

ANALYST Collard

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$1,600.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 386

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 387 appropriates \$1.6 million from the general fund to DOH for the purpose of conducting a study in FY06 and FY07 in partnership with HPC and the University of New Mexico, to review the environmental and physiological impacts on the causation of breast cancer. DOH shall provide a written report to the governor and the legislative Health and Human Services Committee by September 1, 2006.

Significant Issues

DOH states the bill addresses concerns related to the causation of breast cancer. Currently, the environmental and physiological causal pathways of breast cancer are studied nationwide and at the New Mexico Tumor Registry and are widely published in peer reviewed journals such as the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. This bill provides for interviews with victims of breast cancer and the compilation of existing research and recommendations for ongoing education by the state.

DOH indicates interviewing victims of breast cancer involves issues of patient privacy and human subject research and would be subject to approval in accordance with legal requirements.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HPC indicates it will expend budget and resources for staff to attend meetings, participate in research and writing, and take on other duties as required to meet the conditions of this bill. HPC has participated in numerous healthcare related studies as a lead agency; has monitored and participated in the process of interviewing and collection of data; and has conducted analysis on findings and outcomes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.6 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes additional staff time would be needed to accomplish the requirements of the bill, which is included in the total appropriation. The type of research study suggested in this bill may require a multi-year plan for instrument development, data collection, analysis and reporting.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 387 relates to Senate Bill 386, which proposes to develop and implement a statewide voucher program to provide baseline mammograms to women in low-income households.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH notes breast cancer is a significant public health issue. Breast cancer was the second leading cause of cancer death among women, and the leading cause of new cases of cancer in women with 1,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed in New Mexico each year.

The environmental and physiological causal pathways of breast cancer are well documented. In a study of breast cancer cases in the United States, it was determined that 45 percent to 55 percent of cases can be explained by established environmental and physiological risk factors such as income, reproductive factors, and family history. In addition, between 1969 and 2000, researchers at UNM Health Sciences Center published 15 articles based on studies of breast cancer among New Mexican women. A handbook for health care providers, entitled "Breast Cancer in New Mexico," was published in 2000, which also addresses risk factors for the development of breast cancer, as well as provides a list of existing research and educational information regarding breast cancer.

HPC notes the "State of the Evidence 2004: What Is the Connection Between the Environment and Breast Cancer?" reported the following:

- In the past 50 years, a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer more than tripled in the United States, to one in seven today, which parallels the increase of chemicals in the environment.

Such chemicals include but are not limited to: medical X-rays, pesticides, household cleaning products, personal care products and some pharmaceuticals; and chlorinated chemicals found in drinking water and many industrial processes such as computer component manufacturing.

- Less than one in 10 cases of breast cancers occur in women born with a genetic predisposition for the disease.
- As many as 50 percent of breast cancer cases remain unexplained by personal characteristics and other traditionally accepted risk factors.
- Epidemiologists and other scientists believe many cases are linked to environmental factors.

Additionally, toxic waste sites and other “unfriendly environments” are often located close to those who are least likely to have access to health care facilities, insurance, and financial resources to fight for clean air, water and air. For example, low-income populations living in communities comprised of poorly built homes and no running water are at greatest risk for poor health and early mortality.

ALTERNATIVES

DOH suggests convening an expert panel to review the literature associated with the causal pathways associated with breast cancer and reviewing these in the context of recent research on social determinants of health. This type of review might support more effective programmatic targeting.

HPC suggests UNM become the lead agency. An expert group of experienced scientists and researchers are in place at the UNM New Mexico Environmental Health Sciences Center. Additionally, UNM has a strong statewide community outreach and education program, with numerous partners, to improve environmental health. It has invested in state of the art information technology and has developed and conducted numerous studies on cancers and the environment.

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