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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Altamirano DATE TYPED 02/07/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Homeless Veterans Assistance Programs SB 344

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

| Appropriation Contained |         | Estimated Additional Impact |      | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| FY05                    | FY06    | FY05                        | FY06 |                      |               |
|                         | \$548.0 |                             |      | Recurring            | General Fund  |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 486 except that HB486 includes an emergency clause  
 Relates to HB 191, and SB 88  
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)  
 New Mexico Department of Labor (NMDOL)  
 Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 344 appropriates \$548 thousand from the general fund to VSD for the purpose of providing outreach and direct services to homeless veterans including housing, employment training, support services and recreational activities.

#### Significant Issues

VSD currently has a contract with the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center in Albuquerque for 30 beds through a federal grant solely for homeless veterans. The Center has a capacity for 80 beds but lacks funding to expand services.

NMDOL states this appropriation would “significantly enhance our mission to veterans.” The agency has a Veterans Employment Program which provides priority service for “day labor,” job search, and outreach to the Homeless Veteran Re-integration Program.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

This appropriation directly relates to the performance measure on the number of homeless veterans provided shelter for a period of two weeks or more.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$548 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC FY06 appropriation recommendation is balanced between revenues and expenditures and any increase in recurring funding must be offset by reductions in other areas of the recommendation. The Legislature must consider all priorities and funding requirements to find revenue to support this legislation.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

VSD will have to determine the best method of providing the required services. HSD states there will need to be coordination among HSD, VSD, Department of Health, Mortgage Finance Authority, and other state and local government agencies. Rather than establishing employment services, VSD should collaborate with NMDOL and use existing services.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

Expenditures for homeless veterans will remain at the current level if fully funded in the General Appropriation Act.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What services are envisioned and what is the proposed method of delivery?
2. Will envisioned services be concentrated in one area or dispersed throughout the state?
3. If the services are concentrated, what means will be used for outreach to rural parts of the state?

**GAC/njw**