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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/06

SPONSOR Gonzales LAST UPDATED _____ HB 451

SHORT TITLE Northern NM Suicide Prevention SB _____

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 75/HB 357 (Adult Suicide Prevention Resources)

Relates to Senate Bill 27 (Higher Ed Suicide & Binge-Drinking Prevention)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 451 appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund to the Behavioral Health Services Division of the Department of Health to contract for a suicide prevention project in Northern New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health (DOH), citing the DOH Epidemiology and Response Division Strategic Prevention Framework Epidemiology Profile (Spring, 2005), observes that suicide is closely

associated with drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and mental health disorders. Although all New Mexico suicide deaths cannot be attributed to these conditions, suicide is an indicator of the extent of these problems. New Mexico's suicide rate is 1.5-2 times the national rate, and has consistently been one of the highest in the United States.

DOH further notes that suicides rates are higher among males than among females and that, among males, American Indians have the highest rates, with the heaviest rate among American Indian males between the ages of 25 and 44. (NM Selected Health Statistics Annual Report 2003). From the years 1999 to 2003, 1,692 New Mexicans committed suicide.

The Health Policy Commission (HPC) cites additional DOH statistics showing that in 2000 five counties in Northern New Mexico ranked in the top 10 counties in the state for suicides per capita. These counties rank as follows:

- Harding – first
- Mora – second
- Colfax – seventh
- Rio Arriba – ninth
- San Miguel - tenth

Citing the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HPC notes that the estimated economic and social cost of completed and medically treated suicides in New Mexico was over \$200 million in 1996.

This appropriation request is not a part of the DOH executive budget, although it does relate to the DOH Strategic plan, program area 5 Objective 3: Reduce suicide among high-risk groups.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to DOH additional full time employees would be required for management of programs (contract monitoring, technical assistance to the providers and evaluation of process and outcome data). However, DOH states that, as programming would be of a behavioral health nature, it is likely that the Behavioral Health Collaborative would administer the implementation of these services.

ML/mt