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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/24/06

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Services SB 138

ANALYST Geisler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |       | Recurring<br>or Non-Rec | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY06          | FY07  |                         |                  |
|               | 500.0 | Recurring               | General          |
|               |       |                         |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)

Department of Health (DH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 138 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Veterans' Services in FY07 to expand posttraumatic stress disorder programs and services provided by qualified and experienced mental health works to address the needs of families.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$500 thousand would create a new program at the Department of Veteran's Services, which currently does not provide these services. The Department notes that it would need to develop a program that may include hiring mental health workers to assist veterans with counseling and other services.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health's notes that the 2000 State of Health In New Mexico report defines "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as being caused by severe trauma, such as combat or being the victim of violence. The symptoms include re-experiencing the event (flashbacks, etc.), psychic numbing/avoidance, and hyper-arousal. PTSD is relatively common, affecting 5% percent of men and over 10% of women in their lifetimes."

Prevalence of combat-related mental health problems:

- WWII: 1 of 5 casualties was psychiatric
- Vietnam: 1 out of 3 combat veterans have history of PTSD (½ of these still had PTSD over a decade later)
- Gulf War: 1 out of 10 combat veterans have a history of PTSD
- Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom still unfolding.

GG/mt