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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/06

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Alternative Medicine SB 426

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	10,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 426 appropriates \$10,000,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health to support provision of alternative medicine in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$10,000,000 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

Senate Bill 426 does not define “alternative medicine” and it gives no indication as to how the appropriation would be allocated.

The Department of Health (DOH) assumes that alternative medicine includes oriental medicine, naturopathic medicine, homeopathic medicine, acupuncture and other “alternatives” to allopathic (“Western”) medicine. SB 426 would presumably expand the range of alternative therapies

available to individuals in Albuquerque. This appropriation is not included in the DOH executive budget.

The “Alternative Medicine HomePage” (<http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html>) at the University of Pittsburgh, a self-described “jumpstation for sources of information on unconventional, unorthodox, unproven, or alternative, complementary, innovative, integrative therapies,” cites several definitions of alternative medicine, including:

- 1) The Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Section staff of the National Library of Medicine classifies alternative medicine under the term complementary therapies, i.e. therapeutic practices which are not currently considered an integral part of conventional allopathic medical practice. Therapies are termed as complementary when used in addition to conventional treatments and as alternative when used instead of conventional treatment.
- 2) Others define alternative medicine as medical interventions not taught at United States medical schools or not available at United States hospitals.
- 3) In April 1995 the Panel on Definition and Description, CAM Research Methodology Conference, Office of Alternative Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland defined complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) as a broad domain of healing resources that encompasses all health systems, modalities, and practices and their accompanying theories and beliefs, other than those intrinsic to the politically dominant health system of a particular society or culture in a given historical period. CAM includes all such practices and ideas self-defined by their users as preventing or treating illness or promoting health and well being. Boundaries within CAM and between CAM domain and the domain of the dominant system are not always sharp or fixed.
- 4) Alternative therapies include, but are not limited to the following disciplines: folk medicine, herbal medicine, diet fads, homeopathy, faith healing, new age healing, chiropractic, acupuncture, naturopathy, massage, and music therapy.

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