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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/08/07

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones LAST UPDATED 3/2/07 HB 869/aHHGAC

SHORT TITLE Small City Emergency Preparedness & Planning SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$3,000.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Responses Received From

New Mexico Municipal League (NMML)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HHGAC Amendment

The House Health and Government Affairs Committee amendment for House Bill 869 adds an additional task to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in developing the template for emergency strategies. The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology is to develop and implement methods to quickly and efficiently communicate with all small counties and municipalities with a population of 50,000 persons or fewer on the template and processes developed pursuant to this section, including any updates, improvements and other support. The training and exercise manual and any other material shall be provided to all such small counties and municipalities and shall be made available electronically.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 869 requires the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Homeland Security, to develop an emergency operations preparedness and planning program for small municipalities and counties with a population of 50,000 persons or fewer. The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in developing the template for emergency response strategies is to:

- Bring together experts, first responders, community officials and citizens to identify and index scenarios, strategies and existing capabilities, assets, limitations and resources of

the community;

- Establish an emergency operations response team that would maintain, update and review, at least semi-annually, the emergency response strategies for the community and that would implement the appropriate strategies in response to a crisis situation;
- Conduct exercises to test the effectiveness of strategies developed to meet various emergency scenarios and evaluate and improve those strategies as needed;
- Develop a training and exercise manual to guide a small community in its emergency planning and response process; and
- Develop plans and methods to hasten economic recovery in the event of an emergency.

The institute is to provide an interim report no later than November 2008 and a final report no later than September 2009 to the appropriate interim legislative committee.

House Bill 869 appropriates \$3,000.0 from the general fund to board of regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the emergency operations preparedness and planning program for all small municipalities and counties, including the development and testing of a template that can be repeated and customized to work in all small communities. The proposed legislation states no more than \$500.0 of the money appropriated shall be used to defray the expense of conducting exercises in the development of the template.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3,000.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DPS states the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Support Program assists and supports local jurisdictions in emergency preparedness, including planning, training and exercise in alignment with federal guidelines. The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Support Program is responsible for supporting emergency response throughout the state, using a common operating system.

NM Municipal League notes many small municipalities and counties lack the expertise and funds needed to develop an emergency plan. The Municipal League states the development of the template would greatly benefit small municipalities and counties by improving their emergency preparedness.

DOH states the proposed legislation deals with the development and funding of emergency preparedness activities that may be similar to existing efforts at the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Support Program (EMHSSP), Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the Department of Health's Epidemiology and Response Division's Bureau of Health Emergency Management. DOH states that New Mexico has in place a robust emergency planning and response system that is directed, funded and coordinated by the Department of Public Safety's EMHSSP and Governor's Office of Homeland Security. DOH reports that the Department of Public Safety's EMHSSP partially funds the salaries of local emergency managers in nearly every county in New Mexico who coordinate all-hazard preparedness planning and exercising of emergency operation plans in their jurisdiction, in collaboration with first responders such as local law enforcement and firefighting personnel. DOH reports the department collaborates with Department of Public Safety's EMHSSP and

Governor's Office of Homeland Security in coordinating statewide public health and health system preparedness, and provides technical assistance and funding to local emergency managers to strengthen local health response planning activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DPS states the proposed legislation allows for possible duplication and/or conflict with the programs of the department and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH states the proposed legislation would be strengthened by clarifying how the proposed activities would be integrated into the state's existing preparedness and response system and how compliance with federal and state requirements relating to emergency preparedness would be addressed.

RPG/nt