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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/23/07

SPONSOR Wirth LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HM 20

SHORT TITLE Improve Emergency Medical Services SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$.1 see narrative			recurring	General fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 20 requests that the Governor appoint a task force to study ways to improve the statewide system of emergency medical services in New Mexico. The emergency medical services task force will be required to report its findings and recommendations to the interim legislative health and human services committee by October 2007.

The memorial further provides the following:

- In every community and geographical area of New Mexico, emergency medical services are important and life-saving to residents who have significant injuries or life-threatening illnesses.
- Residents of and visitors to New Mexico who are seriously injured or critically ill are entitled to receive the highest level of competent emergency medical care.
- Emergency medical services are provided by volunteers and paid professionals in every community in New Mexico.
- For the last ten years, the emergency medical services system and emergency medical service providers have received a significant reduction of federal, state and local funding for equipment, personnel, training and education needed for emergency medical service delivery and system infrastructure.
- Fewer individuals are able to volunteer to serve the community as emergency medical service personnel.

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- Governmental oversight and accountability for ensuring the competent delivery of emergency medical services has been divided among several independent governmental agencies, none of which has overall responsibility for guaranteeing the residents of New Mexico competent provision of emergency medical.
- It has been repeatedly demonstrated that adequately funded and administered emergency medical care significantly reduces mortality and morbidity in adults and children.
- The emergency medical service system infrastructure at the state and regional levels is inadequately funded by the state and the amount of federal support has declined dramatically in the last eight years.
- The emergency medical system in New Mexico must be improved to ensure current and future delivery of emergency medical services.

The memorial further resolves that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the chair of the public regulation commission, the statewide emergency medical services advisory committee and the New Mexico association of counties.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Fiscal impact for state agencies will be determined by how often the task force meets; and, any costs incurred to state agencies as a result of the implementation of recommendations made by the task force.

State law allows for each member of an advisory committee to receive compensation for travel and per diem expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within budgeted amounts and in accordance with the provisions of the Per Diem and Mileage Act, Sections 10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The task force will consist of Governor appointments from three emergency medical services regions, the statewide emergency medical services advisory committee, the rural and urban volunteer emergency medical services, the state firefighters association, the state fire chiefs association, the trauma advisory committee, the statewide organization representing emergency medical technicians, the statewide organization representing emergency physicians and the New Mexico association of counties.

The duties of the task force will include the following:

- to study and make recommendations to ensure the statewide delivery of emergency medical care in New Mexico;
- identify a unified governmental oversight structure that ensures accountable and responsible emergency medical services, adequate emergency medical service personnel and funding necessary to ensure a statewide emergency medical services system;
- evaluate the level of funding, equipment, training and educational needs for volunteer and non-volunteer providers of rural and urban emergency medical services in New Mexico.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Relates to The Governor's Performance and Accountability Contract; Goal 6, Task 6.6 Improve the trauma care.

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Relates to the DOH FY08 Strategic Plan: Program Area 3, Task 2: Improve the Trauma Care System across the State.

Relates to the State of New Mexico 2006 Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan, Chapter Ten: Health Emergency Management;

- Goal 1: Increase and fortify human and material resources to respond to health emergencies,
- Goal 2: New Mexico communities are prepared to respond to a public health emergency,
- Goal 4: Improve the trauma care system across New Mexico.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The emergency medical services task force's report will address the need for accountable administrative oversight, adequate financing for the statewide emergency medical services system, the recruitment and retention of volunteers and other issues to improve the emergency medical services system and report its findings and recommendations to the interim legislative health and human services committee by October 2007.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The memorial is unclear if the DOH, DPS or PRC (for insurance issues) is welcome to participate on the task force.

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

New Mexico will have to rely on an existing task force or other advisory committees (the statewide emergency medical services advisory committee, for instance) to gather data for a study of ways to improve the statewide system of emergency medical services in New Mexico.

AHO/mt