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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/07

SPONSOR Rodriguez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE First Responder Stress Reduction Study SB 614

ANALYST Peery-Galon

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
\$315.0		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)  
Department of Public Safety (DPS)

No Responses Received From

Public Regulation Commission (PRC)  
New Mexico Municipal League (NMML)  
New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC)

### SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 614 appropriates \$315.0 from the general fund to the Department of Public Safety to be expending in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for the purpose of funding a pilot program for stress reduction and stress management training for law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, tribal police and other first responders throughout the state, using Santa Fe-based clinical staff with expertise in treating acute and post-traumatic stress disorders to educate personnel in at least seven multiple staff departments and establishing a continuing education credit credential for such training. The proposed legislation has an emergency clause that it is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$315.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

DOH states the proposed legislation has efforts similar to activities being provided in part by the department's Epidemiology and Response Division's Bureau of Health Emergency Management (BHEM). DOH reports the course "Yoga and Meditation Technology to Manage Critical Incident Stress" has been taught to several hundred first responders located in the upper Rio Grande corridor, including Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Espanola, Albuquerque and Taos. DOH reports the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) and BHEM coordinate crisis counseling training in response to actual disasters and as part of the State's public health preparedness program. DOH strongly encourages the training in the proposed legislation be coordinated with the department, BHEM, BHSD and the Behavioral Health Collaborative.

DOH states the full spectrum of stress management techniques range from simple techniques to deal with normal reactions to an abnormal situation, such as trauma, emergency or disaster-related situations, experienced by most persons and responders, to manifestation of clinical disorders, such as acute or post-traumatic stress syndrome. DOH expresses that it is important that the training offered teaches the differences between the two extremes.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

DOH states the proposed legislation supports the department's strategic health plan goals to increase and fortify human and material resources to respond to health emergencies and prepare New Mexico communities to respond to public health emergencies.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

DPS notes the proposed legislation does not specify what unit within the department is to oversee, manage or track personnel trained in stress reduction and management.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DOH states the proposed legislation would be strengthened by describing how the proposed appropriation is to be spent and the activities to be supported

RPG/mt