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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/21/07

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED 3/7/07 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Use of Safe and Efficient Vaccines SB SJM 25/aSPAC/aSFL#1

ANALYST Guambaña

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SFL Amendment #1

The Senate Floor Amendment strikes language in the bill that commits the New Mexico State Legislature to the goal of providing all recommended immunizations to 100% of the children of New Mexico and brings the bill in closer alignment to the bill's intent, which is ultimately to encourage the use of efficient and safe vaccines for New Mexico children.

#### Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment makes a technical correction by striking "clinical prevention initiative childhood immunization workgroup" and replaces with thereof "mercury reduction task force".

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 25 requests the continued commitment of the New Mexico Legislature to the goal of providing all recommended immunizations to 100% of New Mexico's children.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

DOH states that preservative-free vaccine is packaged in single doses and costs \$3.56 more per dose than preservative-containing multi-dose vaccine. In FY 08, DOH will order 75,000 doses of preservative-free influenza vaccine for children and 20,000 doses of preservative-free influenza vaccine for adults. The increase in cost to DOH to preferentially purchase the preservative-free vaccine will be \$338,200

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

DOH states that Senate Joint Memorial requests that:

- The efforts of the DOH and others are supported in their commitment to increasing immunization rates with preference to vaccines with no more than a trace amount of mercury;
- DOH policy to purchase preferentially thimerosal-free or low-thimerosal vaccines for use with pregnant women and young children are supported;
- The Secretary of Health be directed to introduce a resolution to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers that calls for vaccine manufacturers to move toward producing vaccines with no mercury preservative;
- Copies of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and to the governor.

Senate Joint Memorial 25 asserts that:

- The New Mexico Legislature is committed to protecting the health of New Mexico's children and finds that effective and safe vaccines are essential to meet this goal;
- The Clinical Prevention Initiative Immunization Workgroup, DOH, and the New Mexico Medical Society has concluded that the influenza vaccine currently in use is safe and effective for use in children, but also that it is important to reduce children's exposure to mercury whenever possible;
- This reduction in the mercury content of vaccines has already occurred for all other routine childhood vaccines, including the influenza vaccine for children younger than three years of age; and
- Establishing a preference for influenza vaccine that is thimerosal-free or contains only trace amounts of thimerosal for pregnant women and children younger than eight years of age follows the national precedent established when thimerosal was removed or reduced from all other childhood vaccines.
- The memorial also requests that the New Mexico Legislature recognize and support the efforts of DOH, the New Mexico Medical society, the New Mexico Pediatric Society, the New Mexico Immunization Coalition and other health care providers and organizations that serve to increase immunization among persons who are recommended to receive influenza immunization, using all licensed vaccines, with preference given to vaccines containing no more than trace amounts of mercury.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Per DOH, this memorial relates to their FY 08 Strategic Plan in the area of Public Health specific to increasing immunizations for children and adolescents. Additionally the memorial relates to the Department's performance measures related to the percent of preschoolers fully immunized,

the percent of adolescents fully immunized and the national ranking of New Mexico children who are fully immunized.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Per DOH, many physicians and immunization advocates fear that passing legislation that restricts the use of thimerosal-preserved vaccines may give the misleading message that vaccines containing thimerosal-based preservatives are not safe. This may result in people not getting influenza and other vaccines that could protect their health. Current influenza vaccines that are thimerosal-free cost more, which could reduce the number of vaccines that the state and private providers can buy and administer.

AG/mt