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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/28/2007

SPONSOR Taylor LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Dangers of Firefighting SJM 52

ANALYST Schuss

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Non- Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Did not Respond

Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 52 requests a study of the dangers of firefighting and how to mitigate and compensate those damages.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be an unknown impact to the general fund to conduct this study.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Joint Memorial 52 states that firefighting is an inherently dangerous occupation, and firefighters, including emergency medical services personnel, are very often exposed to smoke and fumes, poisonous, toxic and chemical substances and dangerous contagious or infectious diseases. Firefighters are also prone to stress-related diseases and disorders and current and former firefighters have high rates of cardiovascular disease, cancers, autoimmune diseases and other conditions arising from their public service employment.

The legislature of the State of New Mexico requests that the Workers' Compensation Administration study the dangers of firefighting and the adequacy and suitability of disability and death benefits under the New Mexico Occupational Disease Disablement Law or other

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statutory or common law provisions and that the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Health and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center be requested to participate in the study to provide medical, epidemiological and other technical assistance to the Workers' Compensation Administration.

SJM 52 also requests that the study consider the need for additional equipment and training to protect firefighters and the need for and elements of a medical monitoring program for firefighters and that the Workers' Compensation Administration keep the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee apprised of the study's progress and its final findings and recommendations.

BS/mt