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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/08

SPONSOR Garcia, M.J. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Veterans Lung Cancer Clinical Study SB 404

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$1,300.0	Non-Recurring	Tobacco Settlement Program Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		*\$70.0	\$70.0	\$140.0	Non- Recurring	Tobacco Settlement Program Fund

*Please see narrative

Duplicates House Bill 394

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 404 appropriates \$1.3 million for expenditure in FY09 from the Tobacco Settlement Program fund to Veterans' Services department to contract with an organization to provide validation of diagnostic technology for the early detection of lung cancer. The contract would provide funding for a longitudinal study administered by the department. The non-invasive diagnostic method mentioned in the bill was recently developed in New Mexico. Participants in the study would number approximately 2500 New Mexico resident veterans.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.3 million contained in Senate Bill 404 is a nonrecurring expense to the Tobacco Settlement Program fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the Tobacco Settlement Program fund.

In addition to the contract's expense, Veterans' Services department has stated a need for 1 FTE in the event that Senate Bill 404 is enacted. The \$1.3 million for programming from the Tobacco Settlement Program fund is for a nonrecurring study, however, the department does not state whether additional FTE would be classified as term positions, and whether these would be paid through the Tobacco Settlement Program appropriation.

The department requested one FTE for a liaison between the contractor and the department; the estimate of \$70 thousand for 1 FTE to provide program oversight to the department includes an Epidemiologist for oversight of the cancer study, estimated at \$27 hourly with 30 percent benefit costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Historical data from the National Cancer Institute shows that New Mexico's mortality rate from lung and bronchus cancer is significantly higher than the U.S. rates; per 100 thousand population. According to the department of health, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in both men and women in the US and NM¹. In general, lung cancer is detected at a point in the course of the disease where curative methods are no longer successful. In as many as thirty percent of the cases, by the time lung cancer is detected, it has spread to other organs or systems. The NM-based contract company's patented technology, a non-invasive cytology based assay, is designed for cancer screening of large populations at a reasonable cost.² The National Cancer Institute maintains that existing screening methods for lung cancer are effective in decreasing mortality.

The National Cancer Institute states that at this point, neither chest X-rays nor spiral CT scans have been shown to reduce a person's chance of dying from lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute is conducting a comparison test, the National Lung Screening Trial, to determine whether one of these methods is preferred for reducing deaths.

The proposed language is specific in its criteria for participating contract organization.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If Senate Bill 404 is enacted, Veteran Services department indicates it will need 1 FTEs to provide budgetary and program oversight. Veterans' Services would be administrating funding of the program.

DUPLICATION

Senate Bill 404 duplicates House Bill 394.

¹ NM Department of Health, attributed to the NM Cancer Plan, 2002-2006

² Businesswire; <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/070117/20070117005258.html?.v=1>

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 404 relates to the HAFC substitute for House Bill 2. The FY09 substitute includes \$50 thousand in general fund for this project for the department.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If Senate Bill 404 is not enacted, there would be no appropriation from the Tobacco Settlement Program fund for this longitudinal data study.

PD/bb