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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/20/09

SPONSOR Anderson LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 51

SHORT TITLE Medical Services Fund for Defibrillators SB _____

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 51 resolves that DOH study the merits of expanding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund Act to allow qualified entities to receive funding for training and equipment under the Cardiac Arrest Response Act and report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 30, 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Joint Memorial has no fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The EMS Fund provides for the following uses (Section 24-10A-4 NMSA 1978):

- (A) establishment or enhancement of local emergency medical services, including the use of advance technology equipment;
- (B) operational costs other than salaries and benefits of local emergency medical services personnel;
- (C) purchase, repair and maintenance of emergency medical services vehicles, equipment and

supplies, including the use of advanced technology equipment; and
(D) training and licensing of local emergency medical services personnel.

DOH reports the EMS Fund Act is used to fund over 350 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies. In many cases this is the sole funding source for these services. In 2007, House Memorial 20 identified the need to double funding to adequately support EMS services. “Consequently, the expanding of Fund Act’s recipients to include entities other than EMS agencies may put further strain on the EMS Fund, and reduce the amount of funding the EMS agencies now receive. This could result in a decrease or loss of EMS response, which is often the only health safety net serving some residents in our state.”

HPC states that according to the American Heart Association (AHA), no statistics are available for the exact number of cardiac arrests occurring each year; however, without automatic external defibrillator (AED) availability, 95 percent of these individuals die before reaching the hospital. If the defibrillation is applied within 5 to 7 minutes, the survival rate improves 30 to 45 percent.

The State Parks Division of EMNRD states it has installed at least one AED at its own expense at each state park. It would like to maintain and improve the program and would seek support from the fund to maintain and expand its AED program.

HPC further states the term “qualified entity” is not defined.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH suggests that automatic external defibrillators may be available through grants from the American Heart Association or the equipment manufacturers.

GAC/mc