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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/10

SPONSOR Garcia, T. LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 26

SHORT TITLE Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee SB _____

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB129

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 26 resolves that the Legislative Council be requested to continue the interim military and veterans' affairs committee, and the duties and responsibilities of the committee be included in legislation proposed in the first session of the fiftieth legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding is included in the budget of the Legislative Council.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has three significant Air Forces bases: Cannon AFB outside Clovis, Holloman outside Alamogordo, and Kirtland in Albuquerque. The Army operates White Sands Missile Range which encompasses a large part of the southern portion of New Mexico. There are approximately 20,000 military personnel at these installations which are also supported by civilian workers and contractors. These forces are augmented by Army and Air Force National Guard forces many of whom are deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. VSD estimates there are 180,000 veterans in New Mexico.

House Joint Memorial 26 – Page 2

In the 2009 interim, hearings were held in Angle Fire, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Alamogordo and Santa Fe on concerns of active duty, National Guard and veterans.

Significant issues affecting this population are the growth in military personnel at Cannon AFB and the impact on the local community and particularly the housing situation. In addition, military members are returning from Afghanistan and Iraq and leaving the service. Assistance needs to be provided to these individuals to make the adjustment back to civilian life and to receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The interim Military and Veterans' Affairs committee ended with the beginning of the second session of the 49th Legislature. A new statute needs to be enacted to continue the committee.

GAC/svb