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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/29/10

SPONSOR Ulibarri **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Continue Military and Vet's Affairs Committee **SB** 129

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HJM 26

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 129 creates an interim committee on military and veterans affairs in the New Mexico legislature. This bill makes permanent the interim committee established for one year in Laws 2009, Chapter 116. The committee shall consist of eight member split equally between the two houses of the legislature. The New Mexico legislative council shall designate the chair and vice chair of the committee. The committee shall conduct meeting in geographically dispersed areas of the state on military and veterans issues and report to the Legislature annually.

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.

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