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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/12
LAST UPDATED 02/06/12 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino

SHORT TITLE Complete Task Force on Work-Life Balance **SB** 272

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER)
 Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Economic Development Department (EDD)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Workforce Solutions Department (WSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 272, an appropriation to Complete the Task Force on Work-Life Balance’s Work Pursuant to House Memorial 1 of the First Session of the Fiftieth Legislature from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) for the purpose of the Work-Life Balance Task Force completing outreach efforts and a final report.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75 thousand contained in this bill is recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Memorial 1 (HM1), Laws of 2011, tasked BBER with convening a Work-Life Balance Task Force (task force) to “define family-friendly policies and practices and to study policy

portions related to paid maternity leave, paid time off, part-time employee benefits, policy initiatives for family-friendly small businesses, employment-based child care and other issues that will improve the health of women and families by addressing economic security.” This memorial built on the task force work convened pursuant to House Memorial 35, Laws of 2010. The task force included representatives from the women’s advocacy community; the Workforce Solutions Department; the Economic Development Department; the Department of Health; the Human Services Department; the Children, Youth and Family’s in-home infant childcare program; specific chambers of commerce; a business and professional women’s association; BBER staff; and other identified by BBER. The task force met 5 times during the 2011 interim, presenting initial findings to the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee in October 2011.

The task force is required to present a final report to the Interim Committee before November 2012. To meet this directive, BBER proposes to expand the task force and develop a model awards program for New Mexico businesses to consider and adopt. The task force will be expanded to include members of the business community. BBER proposes to conduct focus groups with small and larger employers and meet with many local chambers of commerce. The task force will also conduct a survey of other states family-friendly policies and evaluate these for implementation in New Mexico.

The BBER states that expanding the task force and conducting statewide outreach efforts will require additional funding. The task force’s first-year efforts were not supported by general fund or other significant resources, relying on volunteer efforts and participation by state agency staff and others. According to BBER, funding would be used for paid staff and contractors and to reimburse task force members for their time and travel expenses. As a task force participant, the HSD supported BBER’s reasoning for additional funding for the 2013 fiscal year and the importance of including business leaders in the discussions. The EED reports that the findings from the BBER-led study, if implemented, could impact small businesses (those with 50 or fewer employees), suggesting that the task force’s efforts should continue to be supported and staffed.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Without funding, the task force’s proposed work plan for the 2012 interim will be scaled back and the findings and proposal will likely be more generalized.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The CYFD notes that additional workload generated by completion of the task force’s work will be absorbed by existing resources.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without funding, the BBER anticipates that task force member participation will be limited and there will be less outreach and fewer meetings with chambers of commerce throughout the state. The BBER may experience greater burdens on staff and other responsibilities in complying with the Legislature’s directive in HM1.