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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/13/13

SPONSOR Salazar, N. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 476

SHORT TITLE Horse Rescue Programs SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Martinez

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicate to SB 389

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)  
Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 476 appropriates \$75 thousand from the general fund to the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) for the purpose of a program that teaches incarcerated, honorably discharged veterans contemporary horsemanship skills to care for and rehabilitate unwanted horses.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end Fiscal Year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

The NMLB states that facilities, manpower and interagency co-operation have been established for this program. Also, they note that after the initial investment in the program, it is hoped that the project will be self sufficient through receipts from sale of quality horses ready to be placed in working and recreational activities.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Veterans' Services Department (VSD) notes that, according to the Department of Defense, service members in Iraq and Afghanistan see on average 1500 days of combat. Veterans are seeing an increase of PTSD issues because of their extended combat time in our current conflicts, and consequently having difficulty readapting to civilian life.

Nationally, there are many programs that use equine therapy to assist veterans suffering from PTSD and other war injuries, both mental and physical.

The NMLB states that horses are being abandoned at an unprecedented rate, and that placing veterans and horses together has been shown to be successful in other states.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The VSD states that there are 361 veterans currently incarcerated in facilities under the direction of the NM Dept. of Corrections.

RM/svb