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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/13/13

SPONSOR Thomson/O'Neill LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJM 32

SHORT TITLE Older Adult Falls Task Force SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Wojahn

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$0.0					

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 32 (HJM 32) proposes that the Department of Health (DOH) convene a task force to evaluate New Mexico's approach to community-based older adult fall prevention and recommend effective change. The task force is requested to place special emphasis on raising fall risk awareness, increasing access to evidence-based community programming and establishing short and long-term recommendation to reduce the impact of older adult falls on the people of New Mexico.

HJM 32 requests that the task force examine community-based fall risk awareness, access to interventions and surveillance of older adult falls and issue a report on its findings, including short and long-term recommendations, to the interim Legislative Health and Human Services committee by November 2013, specifically including the following:

- Current approaches to raising fall risk awareness for professionals and consumers;
- Current statewide and local public awareness messaging, and recommendations with consideration to literacy and cultural appropriateness;

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- Current availability of community-based fall prevention programming at the state and local level; and, access and participation in current programming and the effectiveness of current programming;
- A local and statewide needs assessment;
- Identification of evaluation measures for older adult falls prevention intervention services, to be tracked by department of health and other state agencies; and
- Public accessibility to data that may assist in obtaining funds.

HJM 32 calls for representation on the falls prevention task force to include representation from:

- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Department of Health
- Designees appointed by the New Mexico Legislative Council
- Aging and Long Term Services Department
- Higher Education Department
- Indian Health Services
- Tribal Injury Prevention Programs
- United States Department of Veteran Affairs
- Healthcare Systems
- Emergency Medical Systems Bureau of Department of Health
- Two older adults who have a history of falls
- Other members of the New Mexico Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal implications. The task force will work on a volunteer basis.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the DOH, unintentional fall-related injuries are a serious public health problem in New Mexico, especially among older adults. Unintentional falls are the leading cause of injury-related death, hospitalization and emergency department visits among adults 65 years of age and older in our state. The 2009 fall-related death rate in New Mexico was the third highest among all states and was about two times higher than the national rate

In 2011, 86.6 percent of fall-related deaths in New Mexico occurred among people 65 years and older. Falls were also the leading cause of traumatic brain injury (TBI) hospital discharges among older adults, accounting for 72.1 percent of TBI-related hospitalizations.

When injuries from falls among the elderly do not result in death, they very often lead to significantly diminished quality of life resulting from injury, including the limiting of independent living and mobility.

Further, the Department participates in the New Mexico Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition and is represented on the executive committees of both the New Mexico Injury Prevention Coalition and the Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition.

According to the Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD), as the population in New Mexico ages, the numbers of individuals at risk for falls will increase. By 2030 it is estimated that more than one quarter of the state's population will be age 65 or older (U.S. Census). Health promotion initiatives, such as falls prevention, help older New Mexicans maintain their ability to actively contribute to their local communities, serving as valuable resources rather than utilizing publicly funded resources.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The DOH has selected Elder Adult Falls as one of its nine priority health areas for improvement.

According to the Indian Affairs Department (IAD), HJM 32 stresses the importance of literacy and cultural appropriateness in the work of the task force which is very important to tribal communities, especially to those who do not speak English as their first language.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The DOH and the ALTSD report having staff for administrative oversight and support of HJM 32.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Falls prevention is a priority of the Healthy Aging Collaborative, which was created by the ALTSD and the DOH and is a collaboration of public and private organizations focused on providing statewide health promotion activities and initiatives targeted to older adults. Falls prevention is also consistent with the ALTSD's strategic objective to "Collaborate with community-based programs to identify and develop fall prevention and chronic disease management best practices and programs."

A graduated set of criteria is used to define evidence-based interventions implemented through Older Americans Act funding. Three programs which meet the highest-level criteria – *A Matter of Balance*, *Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance* and *Enhance Fitness* - are being conducted in New Mexico by the Department of Health in partnership with the ALTSD.

The IAD stresses the importance of developing and maintaining a tribal perspective in the workings of the task force, as well as any outreach efforts on fall prevention. The IHS Injury Prevention Program has established a widely-recognized injury prevention program that works with tribes and other partners to reduce the disproportionate impact of injuries on Indian people. The program facilitates capacity building of tribes and communities by increasing understanding about the injury problem, sharing effective strategies, and assisting communities in implementing prevention programs. This would be one of the groups on the task force bringing forth concerns and recommendations from tribal communities throughout New Mexico. The IAD suggests the Indian Area Agency on Aging be on the task force.