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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Morales **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/31/14
LAST UPDATED 02/03/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Expand Federal Radiation Workers Compensation **SM** 35

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HM 36

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 35 encourages New Mexico’s Congressional delegation to support federal legislation, namely Senate Bill 773 introduced by Senator Tom Udall and House Bill 1645 introduced by Representative Ben R. Lujan, to expand the types of medical conditions rendering claimants eligible for recompense under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The federal RECA provides some compensation to individuals exposed to radiation through certain atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, uranium mining, or by living in a designated area downwind of such operations. Currently, New Mexicans are not able to recover under RECA with claims of downwind radiation exposure. In light of New Mexico’s role as both a source of uranium for and location for the testing of nuclear weapons, many New Mexicans may have been exposed to radiation including those who live downwind of mining and testing operations.

JA/jl