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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/03/15

SPONSOR Johnson LAST UPDATED _____ HB 503

SHORT TITLE Maternal Mortality Prevention ACT SB _____

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	NA		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 503 establishes a Maternal Mortality Review Committee within the Department of Health to review maternal deaths in the state and make recommendations for preventing further maternal deaths. It also establishes a clear criminal penalty for any person or committee member that knowingly violates the confidentiality agreement signed upon membership.

The committee shall be composed of a maximum of 25 members that the chief medical officer of DOH will appoint to serve three-year terms.

The committee will be required to compile reports using aggregate data to study the causes and problems associated with maternal mortality and provide these reports to the legislature, government agencies and health care providers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH indicates that HB 503 was introduced as a result of recommendations by the NM Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to address a critical need for an established and protected entity for reviewing and analyzing maternal mortality data, and interpreting the results to improve clinical guidelines and public health policy in the state. From a national perspective, a recent article pointed out that maternal mortality is on the rise in the U.S. and a public-private partnership is being created to improve maternal health in five priority areas: improving women's health during pregnancy, improving the quality and safety of maternal care, improving systems of maternity care in the clinical and public health areas, improving public awareness and education, and improving surveillance and research (New Mexico Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (2013) NEW MEXICO SELECTED HEALTH STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT 2013.

[\(http://nmhealth.org/publication/view/data/1132/](http://nmhealth.org/publication/view/data/1132/)

From the NM perspective, in the NM Selected Health Statistics Annual Report 2013, data showed that for the time frame 2006-2009, the maternal death rate was 12.5 per 100 thousand live births; for the 2010-2013 period, that rate had risen to 17.5 per 100 thousand live births. The total number of maternal deaths in the state is relatively small so the ability to interpret changes in rates can be difficult, however, the recent increase could be explored more soundly by the work of the maternal mortality review committee. The committee's expanded work could also address interventions that contribute to the five national priority areas mentioned above.

HB 503 is similar to a law enacted in 1997, as reflected in state rule 7 NMAC 4.5, that established fatality review committees for maternal, fetal/infant, and child populations. DOH indicates that this appears to provide sufficient guidance to re-establish a maternal mortality review function within DOH.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB 503 relates to DOH FY2015 Strategic Plan, Goal 1: Improved health outcomes for the people of New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB 503 would require DOH staff administrative time to form a committee, hold meetings, and create documents for dissemination of findings and recommendations.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

A summary of cases reviewed from the 1980 – 2007 time frame showed that there were twice as many maternal deaths among Hispanic women as among White women. (Presentation, *Maternal Mortality*; L. Leeman and S. Phelan; June 4, 2010)

BD/bb/aml