

\$12 thousand a year in travel costs for commission meetings, depending on how many commission members car pool to the quarterly meetings.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

OMBPS reported it believes a smaller commission can be much more effective and would lend itself to better communication between members. Additionally, a smaller commission is easier to support administratively and logistically. Further, the reorganization of the commission reduces the workload and participation requirements on the lieutenant governor and a cabinet secretary with significant responsibilities.

OMBPS included the following information in its analysis.

The bill reduces the number of community members from 15 to 11 and it further eliminates the membership of the lieutenant governor and the director of homeland security. Originally, when the commission was first organized, it consisted of 15 community members and two state members, the lieutenant governor and the secretary of economic development. In the years prior to the 2005 base realignment and closure round (BRAC), it was then thought that the secretary of homeland security and emergency management could more appropriately contribute to the mission of the commission. As responsibilities have evolved within the state, it has become apparent that a smaller, more community oriented organization can be more effective. The bill provides for community membership from counties adjoining the bases, as well as two at-large members from other areas of the state. Thus, New Mexico can potentially benefit from the knowledge and experience of two community members who do not happen to live in a county adjoining one of New Mexico's military installations. A collateral benefit of reducing the size of the commission is that the administrative tasks associated with supporting the commission are reduced: travel document preparation, meeting space limitations, communications, and scheduling.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The administrative support necessary would be reduced with fewer commission members, easing the burden on the director.

JC/aml