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F I S C A L I M P A C T R E P O R T

SPONSOR	Stewart	ORIGINAL DATE	1/27/16	LAST UPDATED		HB	
SHORT TITLE	Language Access Task Force				SJM	10	
					ANALYST	Chilton	

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$15.0	\$15.0	\$30.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to 2015 Senate Memorial 59

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Responses Not Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Joint Memorial 10

Senate Joint Memorial 10 asks DOH to partner with HSD, CYFD, DPS, ALTSD, the Department of Finance and Administration, and community organizations representing New Mexicans who speak languages other than English to develop a model policy on interaction with those with limited English proficiency (LEP) that would be transmitted to the Governor and to each agency. Each agency would have a role in developing and enforcing that agency's LEP policies and best practices that would ensure individuals with LEP of fruitful interactions with state government in accord with Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964., devoting a "reasonable percentage of its operational budget to programs and activities" for LEP New Mexicans, including making available interpretation and translation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

CYFD states that it already has interpretation services available and anticipates no fiscal impact other than participation in the task force. ALTSD also has tele-interpreters available on its resource center, and also notes the impact on personnel of task force participation and also believes that the “reasonable percentage of [each agency’s] operational budget...” provision is undefined, but likely to be significant. DOH indicates that “successfully meeting the intent of SJM 10 would require at least 20% of an FTE, accounting for the “estimated additional operating budget impact” noted.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes implications to its plans and accreditation:

SJM 10 relates to the *New Mexico State Health Improvement Plan* (SHIP) and to the *Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2014-2016*, both by DOH. The SHIP, on page 14, recognizes the importance of utilizing health equity as a foundational lens by which to examine the efforts and results of public health agencies and workers. The DOH Strategic Plan identifies health equity as guiding principle to achieve organizational priorities for the upcoming years.

In addition, as a nationally accredited State Health Department by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), DOH is committed to addressing Health Equity (Domain 11) through administrative and management policies as part of the best practices.

SJM 10 also relates to the OHE commitment to align DOH’s health equity work with the (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH), Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS) Standards, specifically standards 2-4 which fall under the theme of Governance, Leadership and Workforce (see Disparity Issues for specific standards).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH expresses concern that coordinating a five-agency task force would require considerable effort and time.

RELATION to 2015 Senate Memorial 59, which encouraged the Governor to request agencies to plan for policies to ensure positive interactions with LEP individuals.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Each department and agency would continue to meet the need of its clients for translation and interpretation in its own way. No coordination of the services for LEP individuals would be likely to occur.

LAC/jo/al