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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Steinborn ORIGINAL DATE 3/15/17
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Veteran Suicide Listening Sessions SM 144
ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 144 would ask the Veterans' Services Department to convene a veteran suicide prevention listening task force and to hold meetings in various regions of the state with veterans' organizations, representatives of cities, counties, Native American nations, tribes and pueblos, and the workforce solutions department to assess what additional support or policies are needed to help prevent veteran suicide. The task force would be requested to report its findings to the interim Legislative Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Many of these meetings would likely not fall outside the scope of the Department of Veterans' Services regular duties and the meetings would likely have a minimal fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

IAD stated that The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, in its 2016 Annual Report, indicates that the veteran population in New Mexico is 170,132, approximately 8.2% of the state's population. (https://nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2016_ANNUAL_REPORT.pdf) Of these, 9,099 are Native American—approximately 5.5%. Over the last 20 years, suicide death

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rates in New Mexico have been at least 50% higher than national rates. In 2015, Whites and American Indians living in New Mexico had the highest rates of suicide—32.5 and 25.2 deaths per 100 thousand persons, respectively. <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/help/1832/>

As stated in the memorial, in the U.S. in 2014, there was a disproportionate share of veteran suicide deaths when compared to the overall population (veterans constituted 8.5 percent of the population and accounted for 18 percent of suicide deaths). Additionally, there were 20 veteran suicide deaths daily.

EC/sb