NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used for other purposes.

The most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	HENRC		DATE TYPED:	3/05/03	HB	653/HENRCS
SHORT TITL	E:	Transfer Pipeline Ins	pection from PRC		SB	
	_			ANALY	YST:	Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation	on Contained	Estimated Add	litional Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	NFI		\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund
			\$50.0	Non-recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HJR 13, 14

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Report of the Legislative Finance Committee to the Forty-sixth Legislature, First Session, January 2003 for Fiscal Year 2003 2004, pp. 390 401.
- Report to the Legislative Council from the Public Regulation Commission Subcommittee, in response to SENATE MEMORIAL 41, (2001 Legislative Session) December 2002.

This Fiscal Impact Report excerpts directly from the above mentioned report.

Responses Received From

Public Regulation Commission (PRC) Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The House Energy and Natural Resources Committee (HENRC) substitute to House Bill 653 proposes to transfer out of the PRC the regulation of ambulance services to the Department of Health.

House Bill 653 -- Page 2

Significant Issues

The transfer of ambulance regulation has been discussed recently by a special subcommittee of the Legislative Council, called the Public Regulation Commission Subcommittee. The task of the subcommittee was to make recommendation on the structure of the PRC. The conclusion was that the PRC be restructured to focus only on utility and telecommunications regulation. To do this effectively, the non-utility functions from the PRC were recommended to be transferred to other departments. Regulation of ambulance services was identified as non-utility function. The specific recommendation is shown below as reported in the PRC subcommittee report:

Ambulance Services. A 1994 National Highway Traffic Safety assessment for New Mexico recommended ambulance services be transferred to the Emergency Services (EMS) Bureau in the Department of Health. EMS and PRC both support the transfer to better coordinate safety efforts in the state. This coordination would improve services to both the transportation industry and the public. This alternative should also be included in the legislative debate on the creation of a new Homeland Security Department.

<u>Transfer of PRC Resources</u>. HB 653 does not transfer the staff, financial resources or equipment from the PRC to DOH. The PRC employs 1 FTE for regulation of ambulance standards at a cost of \$40.0.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 653 does not contain an appropriation. However, enactment would have a fiscal impact on DOH.

<u>DOH Resource Needs.</u> According to DOH, based upon the planning that was accomplished in the late 1990s, the DOH would require a recurring appropriation of at least \$250,000 and 5 FTE, including program management and actuarial capacity. The first year would also require an additional, one time appropriation of \$50,000 for capital acquisition of two vehicles and computer equipment.

MFV/sb:yr