

nificant public interest in the matter. The Solid Waste Bureau has conducted numerous hearings over the past decade with little or no public involvement. The amendments proposed in SB279 would allow NMED to better utilize its personnel and financial resources by avoiding unnecessary hearings and the time and expense involved in conducting such hearings. In cases where significant public interest is shown, the hearing process would occur and remain essentially unchanged from the present process.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB279 involves no appropriations and would not affect revenues, but its passage would allow more effective use of funds budgeted to the department.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB279 would reduce the administrative burden on the Solid Waste Bureau and NMED's legal staff by reducing the number of public hearings and the need for extensive preparation and post-hearing procedures.

SJM/njw