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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/26/06

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** HJM 22

SHORT TITLE Study Licensing Military Corpsmen As Nurses **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
			General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act  
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY06	FY07	FY08	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$15.0				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Board of Nursing (BN)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 22 requests the Board of Nursing:

- Study the licensing of military hospital corpsmen as nurses;
- conduct an in-depth comparison of curricula, training and job descriptions of military hospital corpsmen against requirements for levels of licensure for nurses in New Mexico and explore at what level of licensure military hospital corpsmen should be able to sit for the examination and become licensed as nurses; and

## **House Joint Memorial Bill 22 – Page 2**

- consult with military and civilian physicians and hospital administrators, nursing home administrators, home health agencies, schools of nursing and other appropriate parties.

The Board of Nursing must report its findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2006.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Board of Nursing indicates that it did not request funds for this study but that the funding for the Study could be appropriated from the Board's cash balance. The board recommends a task force of approximately 15 members to include military and civilian physicians, hospital administrators, nursing home administrators, home health agencies, schools of nursing and other appropriate parties, will need to be convened by the Board of Nursing. Convening a specific task force will require additional resources for telephone, postage, supplies and travel. The board estimates a need for 4 to 6 meetings. Costs for telephone, postage, supplies, per deim, and travel is estimated at \$15,000.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Board of Nursing indicates that at the December 2005 board meeting a presentation was made requesting that military hospital corpsmen be allowed to sit for the practical nurse examination and be licensed as Licensed Practical Nurses. The board directed that a committee be formed to study the issue. A planning meeting was conducted in December with the Board's Assistant Director, representatives from the New Mexico Nursing Association, a nursing program director, and a private school. Other meetings are planned to look at this issue. The board also directed that military hospital corpsmen could submit their transcripts for evaluation to determine if it is an acceptable level of education to take the examination.

The Board has addressed this issue administratively, and looks at each applicant for licensure on an individual basis; If a military corpsman wishes to sit for the National Exam and the transcript and education are reviewed as equivalent to the criteria for having "nursing", then that applicant would be allowed to sit for the exam.

The board of nursing indicates that this memorial is requesting action on an issue that is already being considered by the Board. It is important to note that simply to state that a corpsman was doing nursing functions in their military role does not mean that they have the requisite knowledge regarding the "practice of nursing" that is mandatory to sit for the National Licensing Exam. Nursing is not merely doing tasks, but utilizing the body of knowledge that allows the Nursing Process of assessment, intervention, evaluation, implementation and research to work for the benefit of the patient/client in a comprehensive fashion.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Board of Nursing must report its findings to an interim legislative committee by November 1, 2006.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The board indicates that it will be difficult with current staff to meet the deadline in this joint memorial as we are in the process of implementing Licensure 2000 which will enhance the licensure process and impact the current nursing shortage in a positive way. Staff would need to be reassigned from current activities to meet the time line mandated in House Joint Memorial 22. The board does not indicate the time frame their own internal study would take with these same constraints.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

While House Joint Memorial 22 does not request a study of licensure of hospital corpsmen as emergency medical technicians, the memorial does suggest that military hospital corpsmen provide services similar to civilian emergency medical technicians. The Department of Health administers the Emergency Medical Services Act and licenses emergency medical technicians. It may be worthwhile to have the Department explore this option for military hospital corpsmen.

GM/mt