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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Papen **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/2/06 **LAST UPDATED** 2/9/06 **HB** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SHORT TITLE** Dona Ana County Health Care Needs Initiative **SB** 485  
**ANALYST** Lewis

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

Doña Ana County Health and Human Services Department (DAHHS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 485 appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health to develop a comprehensive strategic profile and initiative in Doña Ana County that focuses on gaps in health care services, health care needs and the use of health care resources, including an assessment of the economic and health impact of those resources in the county.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Department of Health (DOH), \$2,822,700 is included in base in the executive budget request for community assessments on health care needs and resources in order to develop strategic profiles and plans to address the identified prioritized issues related to the County

Maternal and Child Health Plan Act (CMCH Plan Act). Under the CMCH Plan Act, DOH funds county/community-based health councils, including one in Doña Ana County. The Doña Ana County Health Alliance (health council) has been funded for 2 years to develop a comprehensive community health improvement profile and plan which includes a needs assessment and resource inventory of health care services and gaps in the County. That plan is to guide the work of the alliance to act as a catalyst in improving the current health care system in Doña Ana County.

According to the Doña Ana County Health and Human Services Department (DAHHS), of the \$2,822,700 noted above by DOH, Doña Ana County receives \$169,663 in CMCH Plan Act funds, of which \$119,663 goes to local clinics to provide direct clinical services.

DAHHS notes the \$150,000 appropriation requested by SB 485 would allow the HHS Alliance to build on the outcomes of the CMCH contract deliverables and expand the scope beyond what the CMCH Act provides. The CMCH funds are narrow in their scope and will not allow for the in-depth, science-based research that the HHS Alliance is proposing. DAHHS asserts that his request will go beyond maternal and child health issues and deal with the broad spectrum of health care for residents, such as behavioral health services, access to specialty care services, oral health needs, and the continuum of care for under and uninsured residents. This expanded analysis will further assess the economic, social and other population-based factors impacting health care in the county.

According to the DAHHS, the community health improvement profile funded last year by DOH, is only a compilation of basic health-related data. It does not address population-based factors impacting health care or the economic and social factors.

According to the Health Policy Commission (HPC), Doña Ana County is the State's second most populated county with a 2004 population estimate of 186,095. Dona Ana County facts include:

- 20% of the county's families are below the federal poverty level;
- 27.9% of the population is enrolled in Medicaid ;
- 13.3% of the population is enrolled in Medicare;
- the rate of hospitalizations for persons diagnosed with a mental disease or disorder in Doña Ana County was 7.3 per 1,000 in 2001 compared to a statewide rate of 5.2; and
- the average number of hospital days spent by Doña Ana County residents for mental disease treatment ranked 5th highest in the state and 13th highest for treatment of drug and alcohol dependency.

The HPC notes, too, that Doña Ana County faces significant border issues with Mexico. With large numbers of people crossing the border daily in both directions, the risk of cross-border transmission of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis increases, as do risky behaviors such as substance abuse. The HPC adds that the SB 485 appropriation would assist in identifying the economic and health impact of the health care needs, gaps and resources.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The HPC suggests that federal grant money may be available to Doña Ana County through the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission and the center for Border Health Research. DAHHS indicates that it has received such funds in the past, and continues to explore various funding options; but at this point none of the funds available allow for the type of local research this appropriation is intended to support.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

DOH suggests that the Doña Ana County Health Alliance could respond to an upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) for funds allocated under the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act, contingent upon approval from the 2007 Legislature. DASHS does expect to respond to the RFP, but notes that the scope of funding available under the CMCH Plan Act is different from the intentions of the SB 485 appropriation.

DASHS asserts that if this Bill is not enacted,

- the HHS Alliance will be unable to create a plan for a comprehensive approach to deliver health care services in Doña Ana County; and
- the sustainability and growth of the county's community-based process for addressing community health issues would be impaired.

## **AMENDMENTS**

DASHS suggests an amendment to provide that the funds shall be appropriated to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration instead of the Department of Health. According to the DASHS, the result would be to give the county more time and latitude to accomplish the objectives of the bill.

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