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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/09/06

SPONSOR Tsosie LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Prohibit Discontinuation of Services SB 730

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	None		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Senate Bill 730 relates to House Bill 817.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 730 amends Section 27-6-18 NMSA 1978, as enacted by House Bill 8, passed during the special legislative session of 2005, which prohibits the discontinuance or disconnection of utility service during the winter heating season.

The amended language strikes the phrase "for any billing cycle". The amended section would read:

"A utility company shall not discontinue or disconnect service to a residential customer from November 15 through March 15 for nonpayment if the customer meets the qualifications for the low-income home energy assistance program. The utility company shall report the customer's need for assistance to the human services department, and the department shall take immediate action to mitigate the problem."

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the HSD, the language from HB 8 has been difficult to manage and too open to interpretation. The amended language in SB 730 does not add clarity. Language in HB 817 is more specific and helpful.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 730 relates to House Bills 335 and 823, which makes appropriations to supplement the weatherization assistance program, as well as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Senate Bill 730 conflicts with House Bill 817.

BE/yr