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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/08

SPONSOR Jennings LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Create Legislative Health Committee SB 430 & 503/SFLS

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Floor Substitute for Senate Bill 430 and Senate Bill 503 would create a permanent joint interim committee of the legislature called the Legislative Health Committee. The committee would consist of fourteen members, seven from the house and seven from the senate; the bill mandates certain representation and mandates appointment for terms of two years or less. SFLS/S430 & S503 further speaks to how members will be appointed; how vacancies will be filled; what officers will be named; when action can be taken; how the committee will be staffed; and the committee's duties – which include: 1) conducting a study of all health care in NM to include programs, agencies, policies, costs and needs; 2) continuing a review of statutes, regulations, constitutional provisions and other legal materials related to health; 3) study existing and prospective public and private health care system financing, cost-containment initiatives and benefit issues; barriers to health care access; health disparities; appropriate enrollment strategies; delivery systems for prevention and management of chronic disease; strategies for provider recruitment and retention; the impact of federal initiatives to expand health coverage, as well as federal legal and administrative requirements for improving the access of uninsured New Mexicans to affordable health care; and Native American health care access needs and the federal government's participation in addressing those needs; 4) study post-secondary student health care and factors incident to providing that health care, including numbers of uncovered students, sources of health care coverage, the current role of student health care services and possible expanded student health care services and possible funding mechanisms for student

health care coverage; 5) recommend changes in laws relating to health and health care, if any are deemed desirable, and draft and present to the legislature any legislation deemed necessary; 6) prepare and publish by December 1 of each year for the upcoming legislative session an annual report of its findings and recommendations relating to the adoption of legislation and rules, if any are found to be necessary, and make additional reports as it deems necessary; and 5) recommending in report form by November 30, 2009, changes necessary or desirable regarding the creation of a state health care authority, and whether or how to consolidate any actuarial pools and whether to allow private employers to purchase coverage through any state programs or pools.

SFLS/S430 & S503 would authorize the Legislative Health Committee to appoint expert advisory councils to provide the committee with expert analysis on the areas listed above and other areas as determined by the committee. Expert advisory council members would receive mileage and per diem in accord with the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

SFLS/S430 & S503 would also create a Health Care Unit of the Legislative Council Service to be staffed by knowledgeable persons in the areas of health and health care. The unit would staff the Legislative Health Committee and develop policy options for health care coverage and access, supply and quality of health care.

SFLS/S430 & S503 would also re-name the existing Welfare Reform Oversight Committee to the Human Services Oversight Committee. SFLS/S430 & S503 would also update gender specific language in the existing 2-17-3 and add duties to this committee's responsibility regarding the study of programs, agencies, and laws with regard to human services and programs and services available in NM for children, families and the aging population.

SFLS/S430 & S503 would also amend current statute at 9-7-11.2, which would direct the New Mexico Health Policy Commission to mandate that reports of that commission be due by October 1 of each year. Additionally, it would direct that the Health Policy Commission coordinate with and provide its reports directly to the (SFLS/S430 & S503 created) Legislative Health Committee.

Finally, SFLS/S430 & S503 would repeal section 2-13-1 through 2-13-5 and section 2-17-5 of current law which creates the current Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and specifies reporting obligations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill contains no appropriation but fiscal impact would be substantial in the creation and staffing of the Legislative Council Services Health Care Unit and to some extent in the payment of mileage and per diem to members of expert advisory councils authorized in the bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The establishment of a health care unit of the Legislative Council Service would provide the legislature with additional staff expertise in a policy area with billions of dollars of spending, a high level of legislator and public interest, and often complicated legislation. SFLS/S430 & S503 increases the official number of legislators on the health committee from 8 to 14 members and

changes appointment power from the legislative council to the Speaker of the House and Senate's Committees' Committee.

CONFLICT & RELATIONSHIP

Other pending legislation (HB 147 and its companion SB 225, and HB 62) would repeal current law at 9-7-11.2, which SFLS/S430 & S503 proposes to amend.

GH/mt