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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/25/10

SPONSOR Begaye LAST UPDATED _____ HB 48

SHORT TITLE Native American Emergency Medical Services SB _____

ANALYST Burns

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	*NFI		Emergency Medical Services Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*See Fiscal Impact

Relates to HB 49 Tribal Fire Protection Fund Eligibility Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Department of Health (DOH)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 48 amends Section 24-10A-2 NMSA 1978 providing emergency medical services fund eligibility for Indian nations, tribes and pueblos.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained in this bill, but there is a fiscal impact to the emergency medical services fund. The Fund totals approximately \$3.5 million annually and is funded by appropriations from the General Fund and awards range from a maximum of \$20,000 to a minimum of \$1,200. HB 48 would add entities to the list of those whom can apply for funding from the fund. With a greater number of entities applying for funds the amount distributed to the current list of eligible applicants would be reduced.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Although Native American EMS agencies currently participate in EMS Fund Act distributions, they must utilize the municipality or county as their fiscal agent. This bill would allow the tribal government to act as their own fiscal agent.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 49 would make Indian tribes, nations and pueblos eligible for funding under the State Fire Protection Fund.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DOH recommends an amendment on page 2 line 18 after the word “provider” add the words “based within recognized New Mexico borders:” The amendment would clarify the definition of local recipient to ensure that funds remain within New Mexico.

DOH also recommends an amendment on page 10, line 4 to not remove the term "incorporated." Unincorporated governments may not have the financial controls in place to be accountable for funds disbursed.

ALTERNATIVES

Tribal entities could continue to utilize counties or municipalities as the fiscal agent to receive funds.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB 48 is not enacted, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos will not be eligible to apply for state funds, without applying through a municipality, under the Emergency Medical Services Fund Act.

KB/svb