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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/21/11

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 37

SHORT TITLE Legislative Human Services Committee SB _____

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$75.0*	\$75.0*	\$150.0*	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*See Fiscal Implications

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Public Education Department (PED)
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 37 Amends Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 to do the following:

1. Change the name the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHSC) to the “Legislative Health Committee”;
2. Provide oversight for medical assistance programs and other health-related programs of HSD, DOH, ALTSD, and CYFD;
3. Provides for a director and staff for the committee;
4. Provides for the duties of the committee including, but not limited to, conducting studies;
5. Requires the secretaries of state agencies (including PED and HED) to provide testimony to the committee on a regular basis.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill authorizes the proposed legislative health committee to appoint a director, and hire staff to assist the director as permitted by available funding. There is no appropriation attached to this bill to fund the additional staff. Staff for the committee was previously provided by the Legislative Council Service. One FTE (director) could conceivably cost \$75.0 per year in wages and benefits. Costs for staff and operational activities will increase the funding level. Total cost can be determined once a director is hired.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill narrows the scope of the LHHSC from the full continuum of programs and services available and needed for children, families, and the aging population to only the medical assistance programs and other health-related programs of HSD, DOH, ALTSD, and CYFD, or their successor agencies.

This bill also replaces the Welfare Reform Oversight Committee with the “Human Services Committee”, and expands the scope of the committee to include review of non-medical public benefits, alleviation of poverty, homelessness, and hunger, and other issues related to helping New Mexicans participate in the workforce and earn a living wage; and to study issues related to human services in New Mexico, including the full continuum of programs and services available and needed for children, families, and the aging population.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB 37 mandates an increased participation by the legislative committees in the oversight of medical and non-medical public benefit programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB 37 amends statute to include the testimony of the Secretaries of Higher Education and Public Education, specifically on poverty issues.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The year 2011 is a crucial year for the introduction of legislation intended to implement programs and policies that must be in place as early as January 1, 2014. LHHSC is charged with oversight of the agencies and programs that must be implemented or created in response to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The interim LHHSC would remain in existence in its current form.

AHO/bym