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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/11

SPONSOR Hamilton LAST UPDATED _____ HB HJM 5

SHORT TITLE Study Fort Bayard PTSD Treatment Facility SB _____

ANALYST Kleats

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 5 requests the veterans' services department to collaborate with the economic development department, the tourism department, the southwest New Mexico council of governments and other necessary organizations to study the feasibility of using the Fort Bayard campus as a veterans' posttraumatic stress disorder treatment facility. The findings of this study would be presented to the interim military and veterans' affairs committee by November 2011.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HJM 5 has no fiscal impact anticipating agencies will perform the study with existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that can occur after an individual experiences a traumatic event. A traumatic event is characterized by something very intense, unexpected and potentially life-threatening happening to or observed by an individual, and veterans are exposed to traumatic events more frequently than the general population. PTSD can disrupt employment and domestic relationships resulting in substance abuse and negative contact with law enforcement.

The Human Services Department notes in its analysis that the Veterans' Administration identified best practices for the treatment of PTSD and other trauma spectrum disorders are typically administered on an outpatient basis. These treatments include cognitive behavioral therapy, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy, and medications such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors.

In serving New Mexico by operating six health care facilities including the Fort Bayard Medical Center, the Department of Health is aware of the growing need for quality PTSD treatment as well as treatment for traumatic brain injuries. It is DOH's assessment that the Fort Bayard Medical Center provides an atmosphere conducive to this type of treatment.

The study requested by HJM 5 would serve to answer the substantive questions raised in the agency analysis, especially pertaining to a determination of the benefits relative to costs.

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