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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 01/27/12  
**LAST UPDATED** 02/02/12    **HB** 98/aHHGAC

**SPONSOR** Martinez, R.

**SHORT TITLE** National Guard in "Veteran" Definition    **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Chabot

### REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13	FY14		
	(\$01)		Recurring	Local Governments

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Relates to SB 369

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)  
 Veteran Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HHGAC Amendment

House Health and Government Affairs Committee Amendment to House Bill 98 includes members of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned officer corps that served on active duty in defense of the United States as New Mexico veterans. This makes the bill a duplicate of SB 369.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 98 amends Section 9-22-3 NMSA defining a New Mexico veteran to include Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps, Air Force Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard or Air National Guard accepted for and assigned to duty for a minimum of six continuous years.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill would expand the number of New Mexicans eligible to veteran's benefits including

additional property tax exemption, and free use of state parks on veterans' day. The additional party tax exemption will impact local government's revenues due to the exemption.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The website for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) states "Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Generally, men and women veterans with similar service may be entitled to the same VA benefits."

The definition of a veteran proposed by this bill will include individuals who served as National Guard and Reservists who may not qualify as "veterans" under definition of the VA because they were never called to active duty.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The form used to qualify for veterans benefits both at the national and state levels is the Department of Defense form 214 (DD214) which includes services dates, ranks, schools, and decorations. A guard or reservist not called to active duty would not be issued this form. The DMA and VSD will have to determine what documentation will be used for New Mexico veterans not considered eligible by the VA.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Use the federal definition of a veteran in the bill.

GAC/svb:lj