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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/30/12

SPONSOR Chavez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 197

SHORT TITLE Dental Services for Elderly and Low-Income SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4, J. Higher Education, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (HSC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 197 for the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (HSC) appropriates \$50.0 thousand from the general fund to the HSC to provide dental services to elderly, disabled, or low-income patients.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The DOH noted that the bill does not specify the services to be funded by this appropriation. It fails to identify whether HSC must apply funds to the elderly, disabled, and low-income dental

patients who are not enrolled in either a commercial dental insurance plan or Medicaid or may apply funds to individuals whose services are not covered by a commercial dental plan or Medicaid.

The HSC has stated that it would apply such funds to direct patient care performed by UNM HSC dental faculty and on individuals who are elderly, disabled, or low-income. The HSC recognized that funds would be used to provide oral health services, including treating severe infections and pain cases, to elderly, disabled, or low-income patients who do not have dental health coverage.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

While the HSC reports progress on performance measures to comply with the Accountability in Government Act, the HSC does not have any measures on providing dental services. A measure noting the number of patients, specifically uninsured patients, could be added to the HSC's list of measures if this bill is passed.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The HSC would administer this public service project as it does other projects and programs.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The HSC will continue to provide a lower level of oral health services without this funding.

THT/lj