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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/30/12

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Senior Citizen Programs SB 220

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$3,001.9	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 220 appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) for:

- a. \$2,474,586 to the six area agencies on aging (AoA's). These AoA's are the entities that administer senior centers statewide. According to the ALTSD website, these, "are your first point of contact for information about resources and opportunities, including meals, for seniors of all income and ability levels. More than 200 senior centers serve New Mexico's senior populations." These AoA's include:

Area 1 - Bernalillo County, City of Albuquerque Department of Family and Community Services;

Area 2 (Part of the Non-Metro Area AoA) - Cibola, Colfax, Los Alamos, McKinley, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Juan, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos, Torrance, and Valencia counties;

Area 3 (Part of the Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging) - Chaves, Curry, DeBaca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Lea, Lincoln, Quay, Union, and Roosevelt counties;

Area 4 (Part of the Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging) - Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, Sierra, and Socorro counties;

Area 5 - Navajo Nation; and

Area 6 - New Mexico Pueblos and Apache Tribes.

- b. \$437,020 for volunteer programs, including foster grandparents, senior companions and retired senior volunteers;
- c. \$34,297 for senior health promotion activities including senior Olympics;
- d. \$31,974 for information, assistance, education and respite services for caregivers of and individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and other chronic illnesses or functional impairments; and
- e. \$24,063 for statewide legal assistance of senior citizens.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY13 shall revert to the general fund.

The \$3 million appropriation in the bill surpasses the amount of increased funding the ALTSD requested as part of its FY13 funding request submitted to the Executive and the Legislative Finance Committee. The Executive recommendation provided an increase of approximately \$1.7 million for the services identified in SB220, while the LFC recommendation provided an increase of approximately \$900 thousand for the services identified in SB220.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 220 duplicates House Bill 126, Senior Citizens Programs, and relates to Senate Bill 34, Aging and Long-Term Services Programs.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The ALTSD indicates the aging network providers are experiencing an increase in requests for services due to a growing aging population and the current economic downturn. Providers have experienced an 11% reduction in state funding in the past three years; many also have experienced cuts in local funding and federal funding, resulting in a lack of financial and physical resources to serve additional senior clients.

The ALTSD writes some consolidation of program sites, increased use of volunteers and enhanced fund-raising efforts have enabled local aging network providers to maintain support to seniors currently receiving services, but new seniors requesting services have been placed on waiting lists in many communities and critical weekend services have been eliminated for some. Aging network providers include small nonprofit organizations, and local and tribal governments. These aging network providers, especially those providers in New Mexico's many rural and frontier areas, operate on lean budgets. This appropriation is of critical importance to ensure that New Mexico's senior citizens are adequately served and supported.