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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/15/13

SPONSOR Payne LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Veterans' Issues Draft Strategic Plan SM 103

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to HB 233, HB 499, HM 28

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 103 requests that the Veterans' Services Department (VSD), in conjunction with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Department of Defense (DOD), develop a strategic plan that outlines growing issues for veterans, and reviews the state's capability to work with and use current DVA policies and grant programs to meet the diverse needs of New Mexico veterans.

The draft strategic plan should include an assessment of:

- A. Adequate cemetery space for veterans, including the need in future decades for veteran burials based on current DVA proximity criteria for appropriate veteran cemeteries;
- B. Veteran homes and facilities, including a projection for long-term care due to issues such as traumatic brain injury;
- C. The current and projected number of veterans who require various levels of care, including those with a need for treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder;
- D. Access and obstacles to facilities that provide treatment for veterans, particularly to veterans that reside in rural areas of the state; and
- E. The economic impact of retiree, pension and non-pension veterans on the state.

The VSD is requested to report the draft strategic plan to the New Mexico legislative council and the interim military and veterans' affairs committee by November 1, 2013.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the memorial, New Mexico has over 160 thousand veterans. As the drawdown of troops from the global war on terror continues, many more veterans will come home in need of services even as reductions in defense spending grow. Veterans face a number of unique issues and suffer many physical and mental health injuries due to their service, including traumatic brain injury, the signature injury of the current global war on terror, and post traumatic stress disorder, which is being diagnosed in record numbers. The memorial adds that it is important to develop a strategic plan that will address issues facing New Mexico veterans and help prepare the state to meet veterans' needs now and in the future.

KC/blm