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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/18
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Medical Assistance Coverage for Autism SB 161
ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC)

Responses Not Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 161 would require Medicaid coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder regardless of age.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill would appropriate \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Human Services Department (HSD) for expenditure in FY19 and beyond to carry out the purposes of this Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year would not revert to the general fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 includes \$100 thousand for the purposes of this bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) indicates currently adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) do not have access to Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as the current age cap is 21. ABA is the only intervention with empirical evidence to support its use with adults. It would appear that this bill attempts to further mental health parity. Given that Medicaid currently has a behavioral health ABA benefit for children and youth up to age 21, the bill would ensure parity for adults with ASD in need of behavioral health interventions.

RAE/al