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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Bash/Ferrary/
Trujillo, C **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/28/19 **LAST UPDATED** 03/03/19 **HB** 598/aHSEIC

SHORT TITLE 1st Responder Veterinary Services **SB** _____

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		No fiscal impactions				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HSEIC Amendment

The House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee Amendment to House Bill 598 permits first responders to provide emergency care to livestock, in addition to cats and dogs.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 598 amends Section 61-14-2 NMSA 1978, the Veterinary Practice Act, under definitions to add a “first responder” which the bill defines as a public safety employee or volunteer whose duties include responding to an emergency. The bill also amends exemptions to include first responders providing emergency veterinary services in addition to existing exemptions for public employees performing official duties, veterinary school students, persons managing livestock, veterinarians licensed elsewhere, persons selling pharmaceuticals to treat animal disease or selling pesticides, veterinary school faculty, or persons engaged in scientific animal research.

Finally, the bill adds a new Section to the Act to provide that a “first responder” may provide emergency veterinary services to a cat or dog prior to transferring the animal to a veterinarian and further details what those emergency veterinary services could include; managing an airway or administering oxygen, administering CPR, immobilizing fractured or injured limbs, bandaging wounds, or administering an opioid antagonist or other veterinary medications provided that the

first responder is authorized to carry and administer that medication in accordance with a written protocol provided by a licensed veterinarian or in consultation with a licensed veterinarian.

Finally, the bill provides that nothing in the new section shall be construed to limit the liability of any person for damages resulting from that person's gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill appears to support the protection of “first responders” who give reasonable assistance to animals who are, or who are believed to be, injured, ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated.

According to the Miriam-Webster dictionary, the term “veterinary” means “...of, relating to, practicing, or being the science and art of prevention, cure, or alleviation of disease and injury in animals and especially domestic animals.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to BVM, first responders would not be providing veterinary services, only emergency services; therefore, it questions the need to list first responders under the exemptions to the Act.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Use of the term “volunteer” within the definition of “first responder” would expand the number of persons whose “duties” may include “responding rapidly to an emergency”.

AHO/sb/al/gb