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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Padilla ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Info on Safe Infant Sleeping Environments SB 32

ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Not Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 32 would require that the Department of Health adopt rules specifying that each hospital and birthing center in New Mexico educate parents regarding safe infant sleeping conditions to prevent sudden unexpected infant death.

This material could include documents prepared by medical associations or organizations, and would require

- 1) Review of the material by a nurse or other designated person with the parents
- 2) Provision of the training and educational materials in the parents' preferred language
- 3) Keeping of records of the provision of the materials and training
- 4) Prohibition of charging a fee for either the training or the educational materials.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DOH would incur costs related to personnel time for developing rules, suggesting training materials and translating them into appropriate languages, and if indicated, enforcing provisions of Senate Bill 32.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Medical research in the late twentieth century strongly associated sudden unexpected infant death (previously known as SIDS: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) with infant sleep position: infants sleeping on their stomachs were much more likely to die than infants sleeping on their backs. The American Academy of Pediatrics in 1990 strongly recommended that all infants be placed to sleep on their backs, with the result, over the next eight years, of a 44.6% reduction in sudden unexpected infant death, from 155 per 100,000 live births to 86. In the years since then, the death rate has fallen a further 7%, to 80 per 100,000. It is to be noted that sudden unexpected infant death is still much more common in the US than in other developed countries.

In New Mexico, with 23,708 live births in 2017, there were 33 deaths from sudden unexpected infant death, a rate of 139 per 100,000, well above the national average.

In a review of recent trends in sudden unexpected infant death, pediatricians Rebecca Carlin and Rachel Moon wrote:

In addition to substance and cigarette use, regional comparisons are important because there is still much work to be done with regard to improving sleep practices. US non-supine sleep position rates are ~25%, whereas rates in other developed countries have consistently been <5%. US bed-sharing rates continue to increase, and rates of soft bedding use are consistently at 50%. Qualitative studies have revealed that parents make their infant care decisions largely on the basis of what they perceive will keep their infant both safe and comfortable. Thus, they place infants prone because they believe that supine positioning will increase the risk of aspiration or because the infant will sleep longer. They bed-share because they believe that this is the best way to monitor their infant while they are asleep and thus the best way to keep their infant safe. They use soft bedding because they believe that the infant will be more comfortable or because they are concerned about the infant becoming injured against the hard, uncushioned crib sides. For behavior change to occur, health care and public health professionals will need to understand and address parental concerns about safety and comfort.

(Carlin R, Moon R: Learning From National and State Trends in Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Pediatrics, March 2018, Volume 141.)

One Healthy People 2020 goal is to reduce the incidence of sudden unexpected infant death to 84 per 100,000 live births. The death rate in the US as a whole in 2017 was just 2.4% above that goal; New Mexico, however, was 84.5% above the Health Peoples 2020 goal. How much of this difference relates to unsafe sleep conditions in New Mexico is unknown, but it appears clear from medical research that a concerted effort to promote safe sleep practices would lead to a further decrease in the deaths of small infants from this condition.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

A rather similar bill making mandatory the teaching of parents of newborns about the consequences of shaking their infants – often severe neurological damage – was enacted in the Session, Laws 2017, Chapter 119. However, there were no provisions in that bill for enforcement of the law, and in the absence of enforcement, some of New Mexico's birth hospitals have not adopted the practice. Enforcement provisions are also absent from this bill enacted.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Some parents of New Mexico newborns will continue to be ignorant of the research showing supine sleep position to be associated with sudden unexpected infant death, and there will be unnecessary infant deaths.

LAC/gb