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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Steinborn ORIGINAL DATE 3/7/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Non-Opioid Pain Management Hearings SM 73
ANALYST Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Memorial 73 resolves that the Legislative Council be requested to charge the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) with holding hearings during the 2019 interim that relate to insurance coverage for non-opioid pain management.

SM73 resolves that the Legislative Council be requested to charge LHHS with convening experts from the fields of pain management, including experts in alternative or non-opioid pain management techniques that have well-documented efficacy worldwide, as well as experts in health care in general, in opioid dependence and in health insurance coverage and regulation to discuss and recommend policy solutions for providing more New Mexico residents with access to safe, affordable and effective pain management.

Copies of SM73 would be transmitted to the Speaker, President Pro Tempore, chair of LHHS, and the Superintendent of Insurance.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Members of LHHS may require a small budget to reimburse them for per diem and mileage when attending the hearings.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SM73 notes alternatives to opioids for pain management include physical therapy, acupuncture, naprapathic medicine, chiropractic treatment, nonopioid analgesics, electrical signals, radio waves, nerve blocks, yoga, deep breathing, spinal cord stimulation, hypnosis, perineural injection treatment, topical creams, and prolotherapy.

Patients report that pain management techniques such as prolotherapy, an injection therapy intended to repair connective tissue, or perineural therapy, an injection therapy to reduce inflammation, have been used for many years in countries around the world but are not available in the United States. U.S. insurance companies label these techniques as "experimental" or "investigative" and often will not cover these techniques commonly used abroad, while continuing to cover the cost of addictive prescription opioids.

Insurance companies are slow to evaluate the use of pain management techniques that have well-documented efficacy worldwide and reticent to cover pain management techniques they label as "experimental" or "investigative," limiting use of these alternatives as they are cost-prohibitive when purchased out-of-pocket.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Continued dependence on opioids for pain management can lead to further growth in substance use disorders.

RAE/gb/sb