Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	Campos	ORIGINAL DATE LAST UPDATED	3/7/19 HB	
SHORT TITL	E Las Vega	as Panhandling Issues	SM	97
			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				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Memorial 97 requests representatives of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute (NMBHI), boarding home owners and managers, business owners, the City of Las Vegas, San Miguel County, and Las Vegas residents who panhandle be encouraged to identify root causes of, and solutions for, panhandling in Las Vegas.

Copies of SM97 will be transmitted to the executive director of NMBHI, Las Vegas boarding home owners, the mayor of the city of Las Vegas, commissioners of San Miguel County, and the president of the Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMBHI receives operating funding from the Department of Health. Department of Health facilities are positioned to take advantage of federal Medicaid policy changes that should allow the facilities to receive funding for facilities classified as institutions of mental disease.

Medicaid has historically covered very few inpatient mental health services for adults, with services primarily limited to acute or emergency situations where hospitalization is medically necessary. The limitations have extended to services delivered in an institution of mental disease (IMD) defined in federal law as a hospital, nursing home, or other residential treatment facility with the primary purpose of treating individuals with mental diseases, although the facility may also offer medical and nursing care. However, changes in the Medicaid program will allow reimbursement for services in IMDs.

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SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SM97 notes the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute (NMBHI) in Las Vegas is the only publicly funded psychiatric hospital in New Mexico and serves adults from throughout the state. NMBHI provides adult psychiatric services to approximately 1,000 patients per year, and planning for discharge and after-care for these patient begins at the time of admission but, at times, community resources may not exist in the patient's community of origin. Hundreds of patients without a safety net are discharged into the Las Vegas area every year and often become housed in unregulated boarding homes. Some of these discharged patients, who are without a job or source of income, turn to soliciting funds near local businesses and this practice can be disruptive to these businesses.

SM97 is encouraging all the entities come together to mitigate the issues delineated in the memorial.

RAE/sb/al