

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 FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Kintigh ORIGINAL DATE 03/10/09  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HM 78/aHAFC  
SHORT TITLE Study Searchable Database of State Budgets SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Wilson

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Unknown See Below	Unknown See Below		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 159 and HB 452

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations & Finance Committee amendment to HM 78 adds the Legislative Finance Committee to the study group.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Memorial 78 requires the Department of Finance And Administration and the Department of Information Technology study various means available to create an easily accessible, searchable database that displays the state budget and appropriations for each year; and

The study should include an analysis of the pros and cons of the various options, and the costs related to each option; and

The study must be presented to an appropriate legislative interim committee by November 1, 2009 and a copy must be submitted to the library of the Legislative Council Service.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

DoIT notes that the bulk of the study revolves around possible technological implementations and they will have a large role. DoIT states that they like other State of New Mexico agencies is faced with resource shortages due to budget shortfalls.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Transparency in state government is important to good governance.

State taxpayers are entitled to know how state tax revenue is being expended; and

Technology already exists that would allow the state to provide an easily accessible and searchable database that displays the state budget and appropriations.

It is important to the legislature to understand the various options available to achieve the goal of budget transparency.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The affected agencies will have to handle the study requested in the memorial with existing resources.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to SB 159 and HB 452, Budget Transparency Act

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DoIT provided the following:

DoIT has a framework established per law that assures Information Technology requests are thoroughly evaluated and ranked with other IT requests within available funding.

It should be noted that the public can now access State budget information in various formats:

- The public can access legislation through the New Mexico Legislative website in various searchable formats. The website also has search features. <http://www.nmlegis.gov>
- The Secretary of State's website also provides public access to all signed and chaptered bills including appropriations. <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/>
- The Department of Finance and Administration posts comprehensive annual financial reports (currently years 2002-2008 are posted). <http://www.dfafcd.state.nm.us/html/indexcafr.html>
- Public entities are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and information is available through that avenue.

DW/mt