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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-16-09

SPONSOR Richard C. Martinez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Low-Income Energy Advisory Committee SJM 41

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 732.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 41 (SJM 41) asks the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to establish and administer a Low-Income Energy Advisory Committee.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

EMNRD indicates that the agency's Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECMD) will need general fund administrative funds to carry out this initiative. The operating budget requested for operational expenses would assist ECMD to carry out the requirements of SJM 41. It is estimated that this would take 2 days of two FTEs staff time every other month to staff committee meetings.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

EMNRD states, "During 2008, representatives from utility companies, rural electric cooperatives, nonprofit organizations with an interest in energy efficiency, community advocates of the environment and clean energy, the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, Human

Services Department, Public Regulation Commission, and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department met to gain a thorough understanding of the need for low-income families to receive weatherization, utility bill payment and energy efficiency assistance. Consensus was reached on how to address these issues, as seen in HB 732. What remains in addressing these issues is a mechanism for continuing to communicate and coordinate current disparate efforts to provide energy related assistance to the poor of New Mexico. This memorial asks that these efforts continue, by formally establishing a Low-Income Energy Advisory Committee, and that EMNRD be designated to coordinate such a committee.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None noted by respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

EMNRD indicates it will be required to administer SJM 41, and that Energy Conservation and Management Division has the staff expertise needed to administer the task force. (See Fiscal Implications)

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB 732.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None noted by respondent.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None noted by respondent.

ALTERNATIVES

EMNRD states, “NMMFA, HSD or the PRC could be asked to take the lead in administering the committee.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

EMNRD concludes, “Energy related assistance to the poor will continue to be uncoordinated amongst various state agencies.”

AMENDMENTS

None suggested by respondent.