

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 ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)). 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

**ORIGINAL DATE** 01/21/13  
**LAST UPDATED** 02/04/13    **HB** 149/aHENRC

**SPONSOR** Anderson

**SHORT TITLE** Light Bulb Mercury Exposure Dangers    **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** McCoy

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$50.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

New Mexico Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HENRC Amendment

The House Energy and Natural Resources Committee amendment to House Bill 149 (HB149) changes the agency responsible for implementation from the New Mexico Environment Department to the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH).

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 149 (HB149) appropriates fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the general fund to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in fiscal year 2014 to conduct a public education program on the potential dangers of mercury exposure from compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) used in the home.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 and shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The DOH notes, the agency does not have an existing program dedicated to this issue, the Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau within the DOH has worked in the past on the New Mexico Mercury Reduction Task Force and has developed public education materials about mercury exposure on the following topics:

- Pregnancy: <http://nmhealth.org/eheb/documents/PregandMercury09.30.pdf>
- General health effects:  
<http://nmhealth.org/eheb/documents/Mercury/Mercury%20General.pdf>

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

According to the NMED, the agency does not have the technical staff or knowledge to address the health-related effects of mercury exposure in humans. The NMED notes the Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health has an education and outreach program addressing the negative health effects of exposure to mercury from CFL's, and therefore would be the better agency to utilize the bill's appropriation with the greatest impact and return on investment.

The NMED conducts education and outreach regarding the proper handling and disposal of all mercury containing light bulbs to solid waste management professionals. The NMED also provides information to the general public and businesses on proper methods and locations for recycling of CFL's.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The NMED notes an alternative is to appropriate the fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to the Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau at the Department of Health to conduct an education program on the potential dangers of mercury exposure from CFL's.

MTM/svb:blm