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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/30/13

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED _____ HB 227

SHORT TITLE Move Brain Injury Advisory Council Functions SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal (See Narrative)			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 227 moves the Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) functions and budget from the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) to the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This transfer will have minimal cost implications. The transfer will require some staff time at the agencies and perhaps the Department of Finance and Administration to complete paperwork required for the transfer. The BIAC currently pays for its share of rent at DDPC's leased office space; it would not have to pay rent at GCD, which is located in state-owned space.

The BIAC FY13 operating budget is \$97,000 (1 FTE) with an additional \$10,000 special appropriation to purchase children's bicycle helmets for distribution. The FY14 executive recommendation for the BIAC budget is \$109.5 thousand; the LFC recommendation is \$100.4 thousand.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

GCD notes that the Brain Injury Advisory Council (Section 24-20-3 NMSA 1978) is advisory in nature and has no rulemaking authority. Membership consists of members appointed by the governor, including people living with brain injury, caregivers, family members and health care professionals.

The BIAC's powers and duties are; to study and make recommendations concerning case management, community support systems, long term care, employment, emergency medical services, rehabilitation and prevention and the improvement and coordination of state activities related to persons living with brain injury, their families or other care givers; and advise appropriate state agencies, the governor, legislature and private organizations on the development of services and supports that meet the needs of persons with brain injuries.

BIAC activities past and present include: development of support group materials and activities for persons with brain injuries and their caregivers, education for brain injury prevention and helmet distribution for children with a focus on Head Start programs throughout the state, public awareness campaigns, the development and production of a brain injury screening tool for veterans, production of a 60 minute educational documentary to increase awareness of brain injury, grass roots development and advocacy on behalf of successful passage of the Children's Helmet Safety Act, the Trauma Fund Act and children's sports concussion protocols.

Both GCD and DDPC note several factors that support this transfer:

- The missions of the BIAC and GCD are in alignment, the former focusing on issues relating exclusively to brain injuries, the latter focusing on global issues that can impact individuals with brain injuries such as accessibility, service animals, and technical assistance.
- The BIAC and DDPC do not share a common mission as their target populations are different. The DDPC mission serves only people with developmental disabilities.
- Access to the GCD and their services and legislative priorities will enhance the opportunities for BIAC initiatives as well as offer the GCD wider recognition in the brain injury community. Sharing resources, ideas and working together will benefit citizens of New Mexico living with brain injury. Never before has brain injury been so prevalent, with a high incidence of brain injuries occurring as a result of wars, car crashes, sports and strokes.
- The BIAC pays rent; a transfer to GCD would not include rent therefore the savings could be applied to BIAC projects. The GCD will convert its conference room into office space to accommodate the BIAC and provide other resources, such as agency vans, to the BIAC program.

GG/svb