

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). 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 02/08/13
LAST UPDATED 03/12/13 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino

SHORT TITLE Healthcare as a Right, CA **SJR** 5/aSRC

ANALYST Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total			\$46.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

Attorney General’s Office (AGO)

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment to Senate Joint Resolution 5 indicates the purpose of the constitutional amendment proposed by SJR 5 is to create a new section of the New Mexico Constitution to establish a fundamental right to health care.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 5 would amend Article 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to read:

“Health care is a fundamental right that is an essential safeguard of human life and dignity. The state shall ensure that every resident has the opportunity to realize this right by establishing a comprehensive system of quality health care that is accessible to each resident on an equitable basis regardless of ability to pay; provided that this section does not commit the state to any specific spending or reform proposal.”

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The approximate cost per constitutional amendment is \$46 thousand. The costs include publishing the amendments in newspapers statewide, publishing the voter guide, and recording and broadcasting the constitutional amendments in Native American languages on radio.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The AGO writes “If the state made progress toward ensuring that all New Mexicans had access to adequate health care, it would directly and indirectly improve the life of every New Mexican who currently lacks health insurance coverage and who will remain uncovered after implementation of the new federal Affordable Care Act.”

RAE/svb