

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 and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/15

SPONSOR Armstrong **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** HM 48

SHORT TITLE NM Library Needs Assessment **SB** _____

ANALYST Clark

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Minimal	Minimal		Minimal	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Cultural Affairs Department (DCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 48 requires the New Mexico State Library (NMSL) to support a needs assessment of New Mexico libraries and to support and assist library organizations convene a statewide conference to develop and adopt policies to achieve goals for improved library services.

The memorial states that the role of libraries as a repository for books has greatly changed as a result of the digital age and the onset of the internet. Libraries are recognized as a key free public access point to both computer hardware and internet access, and this vital service is key to New Mexico's rural, underserved citizens. As more and more New Mexico businesses advertise open positions online and require online applications, (for example, in order to work for the state of New Mexico one must apply online), libraries now serve as job centers. Librarians are called upon to be adept at computer technology training, access to electronic government and social services, computer based educational resources, and services in Native American and Spanish languages. Because funding for libraries was cut as a result of the economic recession, the memorial calls for policy makers to re-examine the role of libraries and put into place public policies and resources necessary for libraries to properly fulfill the goals of improved quality of life and enhanced economic well-being of its residents.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill would impact the operating budget by requiring the Cultural Affairs Department (DCA) to finance a needs assessment and assist to convene and finance a statewide conference.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DCA reports it is within NMSL's mission to assist and support in terms of data for the needs assessment, and NMSL could serve as co-sponsor in terms of support for the statewide conference.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There would be a minimal administrative impact involved with conducting the needs assessment and facilitating the conference.

JC/je