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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Armstrong, D/
Roybal Caballero
/Thomson ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/17
 LAST UPDATED 2/17/17 HJM 11
 SHORT TITLE Domestic Violence Task Force SB _____
 ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Joint Memorial 11 would request the Department of Health to convene a task force to study the problem of strangulation occurring as part of domestic violence. New Mexicans experience more domestic violence than residents in all but one other state, and about two-thirds of those experiencing domestic violence are exposed to strangulation. The bill asks the task force to study the issue, looking at the long-term effects of strangulation and means of preventing the problem.

Those to be invited to participate in the task force include New Mexico Coalitions against domestic violence, sexual assault, the Santa Fe coordinated community response council, a law enforcement agency, the University of New Mexico health sciences center, the Indian Health Service, a medical first-responder agency, and a medical professional expert in anoxic brain injury caused by strangulation.

The task force would be required to make a report to the Legislative Interim Committee on Health and Human Services and to the Legislative Finance Committee by November 2017.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No appropriation is made and no fiscal impact is identified. Participating organizations will pay their participants costs. DOH will need to budget for the costs associated with the task force administration.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in a statement in 2014 publicized the severity of the problem of strangulation and its association with domestic violence homicide. Further publicity about the association and the physical signs of strangulation, as might be a result of a task force, might avert some episodes of homicide in domestic relationships. As the ACEP statement (at <http://www.acepnow.com/article/recognize-act-risk-factors-domestic-violence-homicide/>) states, “Women are killed by intimate partners more often than by any other type of perpetrator.”

In addition to homicide, strangulation may cause long-term brain damage through cutting off the source of oxygen to the brain. Medical researchers and clinicians are beginning to recognize the long-term ill-effects of brain damage, including in the situations of blast injury (for example, from improvised explosive devices) and recurrent trauma (as in chronic traumatic encephalopathy, seen in professional football players). Strangulation-induced brain damage, short of homicide, should also be the object of study and prevention.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

A task force would not be formed, and an opportunity to study the issue as it applies to New Mexicans, chiefly women, and to find means of prevention, might be lost.

LAC/jle