

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

SPONSOR Thomson ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/17
 LAST UPDATED 2/17/17 HM 51/aHEC

SHORT TITLE Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force SB _____

ANALYST Chabot

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 University of New Mexico

SUMMARY

Synopsis of the House Education Committee amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Memorial 51 adds New Mexico State University as participants in the task force and add its president as a receipt of a copy of the memorial.

Synopsis of Original Memorial

House Memorial 51 requests the University of New Mexico Center For Developmental and Disability (CDD) convene a task force to develop an action plan to meet the needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The memorial resolves the director of autism programs at UNM CDD include in the task force participants from the Department of Health, the Human Services Department; the Children, Youth and Families Department, the Public Education Department, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Centennial Care managed care organizations, the New Mexico Autism Society, the New Mexico Association for Behavior Analysis and Disability Rights of New Mexico. The task force is to present recommendations to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee by November 30, 2017. Copies of the memorial are to be sent to the requested recipients.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation to support the task force. Expenses will need to be paid by participants' organizations. UNM CDD for chairing the task force and preparing the final report.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CDD reports “The issues raised in this memorial are those that are ongoing for youth and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the state. Many individuals with ASD continue to have behavioral challenges into adulthood. Although there is limited empirical evidence about various techniques and strategies for adults, the majority of research indicates that applied behavioral analysis (ABA) is the most successful with this age. Having an ABA Behavioral Health package for adults with ASD would follow best practice guidelines. The challenges of our youth who have significant behavioral issues continues – many of these youth are sent out of state for residential treatment. The average residential placement for youth with ASD is \$220,000 per year with additional expenses for out of state placements. This creates a financial burden on our systems here in New Mexico and certainly emotional hardship for families sending loved ones out of state.

Finally, many adults with ASD will not qualify for the DD waiver based upon their average intellectual capabilities. There is not a coordinated effort to support these individuals as they transition from the public school to postsecondary education, employment or independent living. Collaborations among the various entities named within this memorial makes good fiscal sense to insure that monies are wisely spent and good policy to avoid duplication of effort. Convening such a task force will support the needs of this population and develop action plans that will delineate funding aspects of the recommendations.

GAC/al