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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/2018

SPONSOR Lente/Stapleton LAST UPDATED _____ HM 84

SHORT TITLE County Emergency Preparedness Review SB _____

ANALYST Edwards

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$75.0	\$250.0	\$0.0	\$325.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 84 requests the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) to review the effects of damaging weather and climate events in New Mexico in 2017, including:

- A county-by-county analysis of the adequacy of emergency preparation, response, and communications systems;
- Recommendations to improve the emergency preparation, response, and communications systems; and,
- A summary of funding available for emergency systems improvements including from federal, state, and nonprofit sources and the trends of availability of those funds.

HM 84 asks HSEMD to engage with county and tribal governments as well as acequia commissions and boards of the land grants-mercedes during its reviews.

HM 84 requests a report to the appropriate legislative committee of its findings and recommendations prior to that committee's final meeting in 2018.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HSEMD reports the memorial would have “substantial fiscal impact without additional resources. The department lacks the additional manpower and general fund to meet the requirements of this unfunded mandate. While some matching funds would be available through the Emergency Management Grant Program (EMPG), use of EMPG would reduce the amount of funding that flows-through to the local level.”

Estimating the true costs of this memorial to the department is difficult. However, the broad mandate to work with every county and tribal government as well as acequia commissions and land grant-merced boards statewide by the end of the calendar year will almost certainly carry a heavy cost and would require additional personnel or contracted help to complete.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The number of organizations that could fall under the purview of this memorial is large. According to the Commission of Public Records’ Office of the State Historian, 31 land grants are recognized by the New Mexico Legislature. The Indian Affairs Department (IAD) website states there are 23 tribes located in New Mexico as well as the Navajo Nation. IAD states on their website that “each tribe is a sovereign nation with its own government, life-ways, traditions, and culture; and each tribe has a unique relationship with the federal and state governments.” The Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division hosts the New Mexico Acequia Commission, a group of local acequia members appointed by the Governor to advise the state on matters affecting the acequia and ditch associations throughout New Mexico; there are hundreds of community acequias, ditch associations, and surface water irrigation organizations throughout the state.

HSEMD states the memorial places an unfunded mandate on the department, which has little to no additional capacity due to under-resourcing. The department states “a robust, state-wide, emergency management system in both capability and capacity that includes more extensive post-event review, improved operable/interoperable public safety and emergency communications systems, and improvements in both preparedness and response planning, training, and operations are essential” and has been “identified by this department in the past and yet continues to be severely under-resourced by the legislative body.” HSEMD also explains that fixed, reoccurring, baseline expenses to the department continue to increase without additional funding, resulting in the department having to make cuts in operational expenditures. HSEMD reports the department’s manpower has shrunk by 13 FTE while absorbing a 33 percent decrease in general fund dollars in the last 10 years.

HSEMD has “long recognized the limited internal resources available at the local level for communities to be able to prepare and plan against the State’s Threat Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment, the State’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and the State Preparedness Report. However, none of these annual products and assessments are mentioned in the memorial.”

Additionally, HSEMD explains the “Public Safety Interoperable Communications and Emergency Communications assessments and recommendations will require additional resources from the Department of Information Technology in coordination with HSEMD. Many deficiencies in the current state capabilities and capacities have already been identified and continue to be under-resourced.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HSEMD believes the memorial could decrease the department's current ability at the state and local level to plan, train, prepare, and respond to disasters and emergencies.

TRE/al