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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

Dow/Lara/  
Gallegos, DM/  
Martinez/Chatfield

**SPONSOR** \_\_\_\_\_ **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/28/2020  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** 192

**SHORT TITLE** Additional Veteran Services Officers **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Kludt

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$44.5	\$44.5	\$89.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 2

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 192 appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to the Veterans' Services Department (VSD) for 4 full time veteran service officer positions to serve the rural and underserved areas of the state.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall

revert to the general fund.

The executive budget recommendation included an expansion for \$209.6 thousand general fund revenue and 3 FTE for additional veterans' services officers (VSOs) while the LFC recommended \$214.7 thousand general fund revenue and 3 FTE.

The Veterans' Services Department (VSD) reported \$200 thousand would not fully cover the costs of 4 additional VSO FTE, estimating an additional \$44.5 thousand each fiscal year would be necessary.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

VSD reported the agency currently employs 14 VSOs statewide and is actively recruiting 4 vacancies. The agency believes the additional appropriation would allow the agency even more support to assist veterans statewide. VSD reported VSOs are trained and accredited by the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO), and 4 additional VSOs strategically placed in remote sites with high demand could provide access and services to New Mexico's rural veterans and their families including Native American and Women veterans. VSD also stated these veterans would otherwise have to wait until a VSO could conduct outreach to that location.

**KK/sb**