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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/2020

SPONSOR Rubio LAST UPDATED _____ HM 5

SHORT TITLE Individuals Exposed to Radiation Support SB _____

ANALYST Hawker

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Environment (NMED)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 5 requests that the New Mexico congressional delegation be requested to continue to support federal legislation to expand and improve compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). From 1945 to 1962, the United States conducted nuclear weapons development and testing that required uranium to be mined and processed in many areas, especially New Mexico. Uranium deposits have been found on and near the Navajo Nation. This exposure has been linked to serious illnesses in exposed individuals, thousands of individuals were exposed.

The memorial states that in 1990 the U.S. Congress passed RECA but only designated certain areas of Arizona and Utah as official downwind areas for which compensation would be paid, and limited compensation to only those workers employed before January 1, 1972. In 2019, U.S. Representative Ben R. Lujan introduced U.S. House Resolution 3783 which was then co-sponsored by U.S. Representatives Xochitl Torres Small and Debra A. Haaland and U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin T. Heinrich have co-sponsored Senate Bill 947, both of which would extend compensation to uranium workers who were exposed from 1972 to 1990, expanded the list of eligible workers, added New Mexico to the list of downwind areas, made claims eligible for up to \$150 thousand of compensation, and expanded the types of medical conditions that render claimant eligible for compensation.

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On January 24, 2017, U.S. SB197 was introduced to amend RECA to improve compensation for uranium mining workers. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich cosponsored the bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

This memorial will not be transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

VKH/rl