

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

This memorial urges the legislature to support legislation that would elevate certified water and wastewater operators to essential workers and would fund a study to add certified water and wastewater operators to state health insurance and retirement benefit programs, in recognition of the essential services that they provide in the state by helping maintain safe and reliable drinking water and treating wastewater for release back into the environment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial calls for a study that would, by the terms of the study, be funded by the legislature.

The costs of providing water and wastewater operators with insurance and retirement benefits from the state would need to be carefully evaluated in the study called for by the memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As a memorial, this bill does not have force of law and presents no significant issues as written.

The need to grow New Mexico's workforce of certified water and wastewater operators was identified as an action step in the Governor's 50 Year Water Action Plan. These professionals are critical to ensuring that all New Mexicans enjoy access to safe and reliable water supplies. While the measures suggested by this memorial may be one way to help ensure that more operators can work in the places where they are needed, there are other measures that may also be important. Those may include and support for educating and training operators, as well as regionalization of water and wastewater services such that there are fewer small utility providers that need to hire operators.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None

ALTERNATIVES

None

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Office of the State Engineer's mission and operations will not be affected by the non-passage of this bill.

AMENDMENTS

None