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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| SPONSOR <u>Herndon</u> | LAST UPDATED _____ |
| Alzheimer’s Disease Research and | ORIGINAL DATE <u>03/11/2025</u> |
| SHORT TITLE <u>Funding</u> | MEMORIAL <u>House Memorial</u> |
| | NUMBER <u>53</u> |
| ANALYST <u>Chilton</u> | |

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

| Agency/Program | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| ALTSD and DOH | Indeterminate but minimal | Indeterminate but minimal | Indeterminate but minimal | Indeterminate but minimal | Recurring | General Fund |

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)
University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNM HSC)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
Health Care Authority (HCA)

Because of the short timeframe between the introduction of this bill and its first hearing, LFC has yet to receive analysis from state, education, or judicial agencies. This analysis could be updated if that analysis is received.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Memorial 53

House Memorial 53 (HM53) directs the Department of Health (DOH) and the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) to work together to update educational materials on Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, to seek funds from the federal Administration on Aging and other federal programs to assist with the costs of updating public health programs relating to dementia, and to report on their findings regarding best practices for integrating up-to-date research into educational efforts about these disorders. The memorial requires the department to produce a report on their efforts and submit that report to the Legislative Council and the governor.

This memorial does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation in this memorial. ALTSD estimates an annual cost of \$24 thousand for 0.2 FTE to work on outreach and education.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The initial portion of this memorial gives reasons for its requested outcomes:

- Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive disorder, the most common form of dementia, that gradually destroys a person’s memory and cognitive skills.
- Seven million Americans live with Alzheimer’s disease and one in three seniors dies with dementia.
- The growing cost of dementias in the US is estimated at \$360 million per year at present.
- Forty-six thousand New Mexicans live with dementia; their caregivers are estimated to spend 118 million hours in unpaid care of these elderly adults.
- New Mexicans should have access to the latest information and data about dementia, including warning signs and possible interventions to slow the diseases’ progression.
- This information may be available through health care providers, who themselves should be kept up to date on best practices in preventing, detecting and treating Alzheimer’s and other dementias.
- The federal Administration on Aging has initiatives to help persons with Alzheimer’s and other dementias and their caretakers and has funding and resources that may be available to augment education and awareness of care about the disorders.

The Alzheimer’s Association of New Mexico, part of the nationwide Alzheimer’s Association, lists the following warning signs of Alzheimer’s:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life,
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems,
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks,
4. Confusion with time or place,
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships,
6. New problems with speech or writing,
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps,
8. Decreased or poor judgment,
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities, and
10. Changes in mood or personality.

ALTSD states that it “is currently partnering with Alzheimer's association and just launched the ‘Take Action. Talk’ which is a campaign that will feature billboards, digital ads, and online content to educate the public about Alzheimer’s warning signs, treatments and caregiver.” It also administers the federal Lifespan Respite grant, which serves caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. ALTSD notes that New Mexico will by 2030 have the fourth highest proportion of its citizens in the senior citizen category, and that aging is the primary risk factor for dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease.

Because mild degrees of impairment in some of these areas are common among normally aging older adults, it may be difficult in early stages of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias to be able to differentiate progressive changes from these normal processes.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This memorial would require DOH and ALTSD to work together to develop resources, seek external funding, and develop New Mexico-specific education and training to help those affected by Alzheimer’s disease, other dementias, and those who spend a great deal of time caring for those with these disorders.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM-HSC), which houses one of the nation’s 38 Alzheimer Disease Research Centers, notes two errors in one of the “Whereas” clauses: Alois Alzheimer made his discoveries in 1906, not 1960; and the substance that accumulates in the brain is “amyloid”, not “amyloid.”

LAC/hj/SL2