

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Human Services Department did not suggest any performance measures. Possible measures that the agency might try to track include:

1. The average wage increase to direct providers.
2. The number of persons providing direct services at the end of the year compared to the prior year.
3. Provider turnover rates.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$4,000.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall revert to the general fund.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to HSD, the general fund appropriation could leverage \$10,942 in federal funds, assuming it could be matched with federal medicaid dollars. However, the department reports for this to happen, the bill language should be amended so the department has the legal authority to implement the appropriation in the medicaid program. Specifically, they say that the language should provide direction as to whether they should use the money for lump-sum payments to nursing homes or to increase the nursing home per-diem rate.

The HPC notes that inadequate pay at nursing homes is a national problem. President Clinton had proposed \$1 billion to address the nursing home staffing problem.

BT/njw