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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Wilson DATE TYPED: 2/12/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Prescription Drug Assistance Outreach Program SB 470
 ANALYST: Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 215.0	See Narrative		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Agency on Aging (AOA)
 Veterans' Services Commission (VSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB 470 appropriates \$215,000 to the State Agency on Aging to be used to implement a statewide Outreach Program to assist eligible individuals to enroll or access to the Prescription Drug Patient Assistance Program and the Veterans' Administration Health Care Program.

Significant Issues

The Medicare program provides health insurance for seniors and people with disabilities. Presently this program offers no drug benefit, forcing beneficiaries to purchase high cost medications or supplemental insurance to meet these costs. SB 470 will provide an avenue for seniors and persons with disabilities to access other programs for assistance. Although Medicare HMO Plans may become available once again, these plans are primarily available in limited urban parts of the state. SB 470 will assist seniors and persons with disabilities who do not live in the urban centers or who can not afford many costly medications.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 470 appropriates \$215.0 from the general fund for FY02 to the AOA. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY02 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The AOA is requesting one FTE in order to comply with the requirements of SB 470.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

- HB 297, NM Prescription Drug Discount Act
- HB 298, Native American Prescription Drug Program
- HB 300 Special Prescription Drug Program for Seniors
- HB 301, Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act
- HB 302, Prescription Drug Benefit for Seniors
- HB 519, Prescription Drugs from Canada or Mexico
- HB 537, Prescription Drug ID Cards
- SB 65, Program for Veterans in Rural Areas
- SB 140, Native American Prescription Drug Program
- SB 141, Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act
- SB 142, NM Prescription Drug Discount Act
- SB 143, Medicaid Prescription Drug Plan for Seniors
- SB 144, Prescription Drug Bulk Purchasing Act
- HJM 21, Affordable Drug Program Options for Seniors
- HJM 22 Study Rising Costs of Prescription Drugs

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Low-income seniors and persons with disabilities will continue to be at a disadvantage and many will not be able to purchase medicine or do so at a reasonable cost. According to the AOA, there is significant under-utilization of both the Prescription Drug Program and Veterans' Health Care Program. The AOA has demonstrated that, through outreach initiatives such as SB 470 mandates, they have been successful in helping individuals apply and enroll in other entitlement programs or access social and health care services.

DW/njw