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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Taylor, JP DATE TYPED: 1/28/02 HB 32

SHORT TITLE: Safe Building Conference SB _____

ANALYST: Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
\$25.0				Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
General Services Department (GSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 32 appropriates \$25.0 from the General Fund to the Governor's Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped to provide support for a safe building conference emphasizing materials appropriate for persons with multi-chemical sensitivities (MCS). The bill includes an emergency clause.

Significant Issues

A Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) information brochure published under the auspices of New Mexico's Department of Health, Environment Department, State Department of Education and the NM Governor's Committee on concerns of the Handicapped, states "Many people have developed MCS after being exposed to chemicals in a newly built home, recently remodeled office, or following a pesticide or solvent exposure. Others slowly become ill over a period of years." People who are chemically sensitive are made sick by exposures to things like: pesticides, perfumes, tobacco smoke, new carpets, new paint, building materials, and many cleaning or laundry products.

HB 32 would fund a conference to discuss and identify suitable building materials appropriate to address the needs of people with multi-chemical sensitivities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$25.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund. The bill contains an emergency clause.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

MCS is a growing public health issue that affects people of all ages, races and economic backgrounds. In 1997, a survey conducted by the Department of Health found that 16% of the respondents reported being unusually sensitive to everyday chemicals (e.g. household cleaning products, paints, perfumes and insect sprays) and 2% reported that had been diagnosed with MCS. People with MCS experience a range of symptoms and include: headaches, trouble concentrating, nausea, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, dizziness, difficulty breathing, irregular heart beat and seizures.

According to DOH Multiple Chemical Sensitivities is recognized as a potentially disabling condition by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on a case by case basis. This means that employers, schools, hospitals, stores, hotels, and other public places must provide reasonable accommodations for people with MCS who qualify as having a disability under the ADA.

DOH and GSD support a conference on safe building practices.

BD/njw:ar