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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SYONSOR:	Feldman DATE TYPED	: 1/29/02	НВ	
SHORT TITLE:	Prescription Drug Outreach for Senior	rs	SB	118/aSPAC
		ANALYST:		Esquibel

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		_		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$115.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act

Relates to SB91, Senior Prescription Drug Benefit; HB200, Senior Prescription Drug Program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

State Agency on Aging (SAOA) NM Health Policy Commission (HPC)

No Response

Human Services Department (HSD) Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment to Senate Bill 118 changes "low-income *senior citizens*" to read "low-income *persons*" so all persons who may possibly be eligible can take advantage of the program.

Senate Bill 118/aSPAC -- Page 2

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 118 appropriates \$115.0 from the general fund to SAOA to expand outreach efforts to help low-income senior citizens statewide obtain free prescription drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers through the use of an automated system for processing applications.

Significant Issues

SAOA reports the appropriation contained in the bill would allow for the purchase of a license for up to 1000 people to use an Internet-based automated system to process applications to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies for free prescription drugs for qualifying low-income individuals.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$115.0 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.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SAOA and HPC suggests the following changes to the bill:

- Change "senior citizens" to read "qualifying low-income individuals";
- Add an emergency clause; and
- Change "free" to read "free or discounted prescription drugs"....

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Medicare website provides details on 65 different prescription drug programs via a dowloadable database at http://www.medicare.gov/Prescription/Home.asp.

RAE/njw