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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Aragon DATE TYPED 2/2/2004 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Treatment for Veterans With Lung Disease SB 325

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$320.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA)
 New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission (VSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 325 appropriates \$320 thousand from the general fund to VSC for the purpose of treating veterans with lung disease.

Significant Issues

VSC states information from the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albuquerque states 385 veterans are being treated for some type of lung disease (e.g., Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Obstructive Chronic Disease, Emphysema, and Lung Cancer). Temporary living assistance would aid in treatment options for these veterans.

MFA was administering a fiscal year 2003 appropriation from tobacco settlement fund to provide a transitional living facility for veterans following the cancellation of a contract with Rehabilitation Services and Veterans Program. The joint powers agreement between VSC and MFA has now ended.

DOH states studies have found a higher rate of smoking among male veterans (36.1 percent) than

the adult male population in general (27.6 percent), and female veterans (28.1 percent) than the adult female population in general (22.1 percent). In addition, it is estimated there are 20,000 homeless veterans in New Mexico, with 90 percent of these having some type of lung disease.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$320 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2005 shall revert to the general fund.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

VSC does not treat patients. Recommend line 18 be changed to read: “fiscal year 2005 for transitional living assistance for homeless veterans and veterans with lung disease. Any”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What services are envisioned to be provided through this appropriation?
2. Will this program be carried out by contract or with the staff of VSC?
3. Is there the possibility of receiving matching federal funds for this effort?

GAC/yr:njw