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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-28-06

SPONSOR Wirth LAST UPDATED _____ HB HM 5

SHORT TITLE Develop Mercury Reduction Action Plan SB _____

ANALYST Collard

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

House Memorial 5 requests the Department of Health and the Department of Environment to convene a task force to develop a comprehensive mercury reduction action plan to reduce harm from exposure to mercury. The memorial calls for the action plan to be reported to the legislative health and human services committee and to the interim legislative committee that studies water and natural resources issues at their October 2006 meetings.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes there are no fiscal implications associated with this memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH notes mercury exposures are a potential health concern for New Mexicans. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin manifesting in a variety of neurological conditions including tremors, muscle coordination, loss of memory, personality changes, deafness and loss of vision among other conditions.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Additional staff time would be needed for the Department of Health to accomplish the requirements of this memorial.

KBC/mt