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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/1/07

SPONSOR HCPAC LAST UPDATED _____ HB 134/HCPACS

SHORT TITLE Aid for Women Veterans and their Families SB _____

ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
\$469.3		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee Substitute for House Bill 134 appropriates \$469,250 from the General Fund to the Veterans' Services Department for the purposes of expanding services to women veterans and their families as well as conducting a pilot project. The bill carries an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$469,250 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 08 shall revert to the General Fund.

DFA states that the Executive recommendation does not include funds for a Women's Veterans' Center as specified in this bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

VSD asserts that there are over 26,000 women veterans in New Mexico with unique issues and needs. The Women's Veterans' Center pilot project would provide therapy, trauma treatment, support groups, an on-site women's veterans' service officer and staff training for individuals serving this population. The project would additionally analyze data specific to the needs of women veterans of New Mexico and compile this information accordingly.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The VSD maintains that a minimum of two certified counselors would be required to initiate the program.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The VSD indicates that a location to house the Center would need to be established.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Does the Center's funding request include costs associated with the lease of a space to house the program?

AG/csd