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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/23/07

SPONSOR Garcia, MH LAST UPDATED _____ HB 135

SHORT TITLE Southeast NM Mobile Dental Health Clinics SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$237.4	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: Senate Bill 173

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$262.6	\$47.6	\$310.2*	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*See fiscal implications for explanation.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 135 would appropriate \$237,400 from the General Fund to the Department of Health (DOH) in Fiscal Year 2008 to operate mobile dental health clinics in southern New Mexico. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation included in this bill is not part of the Department's FY08 operating budget request.

DOH notes that the \$237,400 allocated in the bill may be insufficient to establish such a mobile dental clinic. The Mobile Health Clinics Network estimates that to construct and operate a basic two-chair mobile dental clinic could cost in excess of \$500,000. The cost includes first-time expenses for construction, staffing and operational expenses. As a result, there would be an additional operational budget impact of \$262.6 thousand in FY08. In subsequent years, the annual cost to operate and maintain the mobile dental clinic would be a minimum of \$285,000. Assuming that the \$237.4 thousand in funding contained in the bill is recurring, an additional \$47.6 thousand would be needed in FY09 to operate the clinic.

DOH estimated that a dentist, a dental hygienist, and two dental assistants would be needed to staff the clinic. Other expenditures would include vehicle maintenance and storage, dental supplies, administrative coordination of scheduling and locations, and recordkeeping.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

While oral disease may be the most preventable health condition affecting the U.S. population, the oral health of minorities and the underserved remains poor. Sufficient tools and technology exist to prevent and control oral disease, but the outcomes have not reflected these advances. Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, being five times more common than asthma. Annually, 56 million school hours are lost as a result of dental disease among children.

The 2000 New Mexico Children's Oral Health Survey has identified that 65% of New Mexico children have experienced tooth decay and 37% have untreated tooth decay. The New Mexico Oral Health Surveillance System Report has identified that 64% of New Mexico adults have seen a dentist. Forty-three percent of adults ages 64 or older have lost six or more teeth due to decay or gum disease.

A serious shortage of dental providers exists throughout the state. Most of the counties, either in specific populations or the entire county, have been designated as dental health professional shortage areas (HPSA). These include the southern counties of Lea, Eddy, Otero, portions of Dona Ana, Luna, Hidalgo, low-income populations of Grant, and Sierra.

The intent of HB135 is to help address this problem by establishing a mobile dental health clinic to provide dental services to the citizens of southern New Mexico who do not have dental insurance and are suffering from untreated dental disease.

DUPLICATION

House Bill 135 is duplicated by Senate Bill 173.

GG/mt