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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/19/2007

SPONSOR Gardner LAST UPDATED _____ HB 746

SHORT TITLE Burial and Cremation Expenses SB _____

ANALYST Schuss

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Recurring	General Fund/ County Indigent Hospital Claims Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 746 amends 23-13-3 NMSA 1978 and 23-13-4 NMSA 1978 regarding the burial of indigents by increasing expenses paid for burial or cremation and providing for payment to secure a gravesite relating to burial.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 746 increases the amount to be paid by the county for burial or cremation, if the person is indigent, from \$600 to \$1200.

HB 746 also states that the cost to be paid by the county to secure a gravesite or for opening and closing a grave shall not exceed \$600.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to RLD, the services rendered for burial expenses and securing a gravesite are well above the maximum current amount allowed which leaves the burden of cost for indigents with the funeral establishments. Therefore it is essential to enact this amendment to provide funeral establishments with adequate reimbursement to cover the establishment's minimal costs.

BS/nt