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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/19/07

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 845

SHORT TITLE Acupuncture Detoxification Programs SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$140.4	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: SB 731

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 845 would appropriate \$140,421 to the Department of Health (DOH) from the General Fund to finance six pilot detoxification programs, using acupuncture to treat substance abuse especially in traditionally underserved populations such as women and children of color, at-risk youth, low-income persons, victims of violence and those with concurrent mental health problems. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

An appropriation for the purposes of HB 845 is not contained in the Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

From DOH

Acupuncture detox (technically called auricular detoxification) is an effective and inexpensive intervention, which has been proven to be successful in substance use treatment and harm

reduction settings nationwide. It is effective in treating drug and alcohol cravings, drug and alcohol withdrawal symptoms, and increasing the overall physical and mental well-being of individuals living with substance use disorders. Auricular detoxification has been studied extensively by Yale University School of Medicine, and research results have been published in such professional journals as *The Lancet*, *American Journal on Addictions*, and *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.

To date, there are fewer than 15 Certified Auricular Detoxification Specialists (CADS) in New Mexico.

DUPLICATION

HB 845 is duplicated by SB 731.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB 845 refers to “acupuncture” to treat substance use disorders among traditionally underserved populations. The appropriate characterization of the treatment should be changed to “auricular detoxification treatments,” or “acu-detox.” Acu-detox treatments can be provided by New Mexico Certified Auricular Detoxification Specialists (CADS) or by Licensed Acupuncturists with training.

HB 845 as currently written refers to acupuncture, which may only be provided by Licensed Acupuncturists or Doctors of Oriental Medicine. DOH believes as currently written HB 845 would not allow CADS to provide acu-detox and result in fewer individuals being served by the proposed pilot programs. See suggested amendment below.

AMENDMENTS

On page 1, replace acupuncture with the term auricular detoxification treatments on lines 12 and 20.

GG/nt