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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/07
 LAST UPDATED 2/17/07 HB _____

SPONSOR Feldman

SHORT TITLE Trauma System Strategic Priorities SB 154

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$7,700.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 154, for the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, would appropriate \$7.7 million from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for expenditure in 2008 and subsequent years to support the state's trauma system priorities. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation contained in SB 154 is included in the Governor's executive budget recommendation for DOH, which includes the department's base funding for trauma system priorities of \$4.7 million and an increase of \$3 million in 2008. The Legislative Finance Committee budget recommendation for DOH includes base funding for trauma of \$4.7 million. DOH notes by statute five percent of appropriation may be used by DOH for administrative costs, including monitoring, trauma system development and providing technical assistance.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH notes the distribution of funds included in SB 154 would be determined by the New Mexico Trauma System Fund Authority, which was created during the 2006 Legislative Session (HB 266). According to the 2005 Governor’s Trauma Task Force Report:

“[The] New Mexico trauma care system and services are on the brink of collapse. Trauma centers are facing a breakdown caused by the surge in patients, the decline of specialty physicians and nurses to provide care and the lack of funding to sustain trauma center designation. These facts motivated the New Mexico Legislature to pass House Memorial 20 in the 2005 New Mexico Legislature. The Governor’s Trauma Task Force was created to make recommendations to address the crisis. Thirty-six physicians, hospital administrators, emergency medical personnel, insurers, Medicaid professionals, rehabilitation administrators, injury prevention specialists and others statewide served on the Governor’s Trauma Task Force, meeting monthly to confront trauma system challenges.”

SB 154 defines a state’s trauma system priorities as including: sustain and develop new hospital-based trauma centers, integrate rehabilitation facilities into the trauma system, enhance trauma education, improve pre-hospital trauma care and increase injury prevention programs. This trauma system development would strengthen all health care statewide.

DUPLICATION

DOH notes that the appropriation contained in SB 154 is duplicated by the executive budget recommendation for DOH. However, the Legislative Finance Committee budget recommendation for DOH only includes base funding of \$4.7 million.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DOH suggests that SB 154 should include language appropriating funds to the statewide Trauma Fund with Trauma System Fund Authority oversight.

GG/nt