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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/07

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Military Hospital Corps as Nurses SB 883

ANALYST Peery-Galon

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$50.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Board of Nursing  
 Department of Military Affairs (DMA)  
 Department of Health (DOH)

No Responses Received from

New Mexico Municipal League (NMML)  
 New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC)

### SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 883 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Department of Military Affairs for the purpose of convening a group to study the potential benefits of using New Mexico's military hospital corps members and medics to alleviate the state's nursing shortage and to conduct an in-depth comparison of military and civilian curricula, training and job descriptions for nursing services and devise a curriculum for nursing licensure that allows military hospital corps members and medics to earn a licensed practical nurse diploma and sit for a civilian licensure examination.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Board of Nursing states community colleges who offer practical nursing certificates have been willing to evaluate courses from military education and give college credit. These individuals are placed in the program and can complete other required courses earning a practical nurse certificate. The Board of Nursing currently evaluates military transcripts for equivalence to other nursing programs that offer a practical nursing certificate. In the past year, around six transcripts were evaluated. The Board of Nursing reports most of the corps members met the requirements to sit for the practical nursing exam.

DOH reports military corpsmen and medics receive extensive training qualifying them to care for service members and their families throughout the world. The training is not accredited through the New Mexico Board of Nursing due to the training missing key and essential elements required for graduation from a credentialed nursing program. DOH reports individuals must have a certificate or diploma from a credentialed school, or have their transcript reviewed by the Board of Nursing and be determined eligible before taking the New Mexico licensure exam. DOH states “military corpsmen and medics need to be made aware of the existing process, and be encouraged to have transcripts and training records reviewed.”

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Board of Nursing requests if the proposed legislation is enacted that they be part of the group formed to study potential benefits of using New Mexico hospital corps members and medics.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Board of Nursing states corps members and medics who have had their military education evaluated by the board and are successful on the exam may not be able to endorse their New Mexico license into another state if the educational equivalency is not recognized by the state. The Board of Nursing notes that requiring these individuals to complete a curriculum for nursing licensure would allow them to complete requirements for a practical nurse certificate and to be endorse into another state or to be eligible for higher nursing education with or without having to depend on an evaluation of education credentials. The Board of Nursing states a representative from the board and a practical nurse educator(s) must be part of the study that will determine the curriculum.

RPG/nt