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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/26/09

SPONSOR Tripp LAST UPDATED _____ HB 127

SHORT TITLE Socorro County Rural Perinatal Health Care SB _____

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$100.0	\$100.0	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 127, Socorro County Rural Perinatal Health Care, appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to DOH for the purpose of contracting with a general hospital in Socorro County for perinatal health care in the rural areas of Socorro County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The LFC submitted a balanced general fund appropriation recommendation for fiscal year 2010. Any additional general fund expenditures appropriated by the Legislature must be off-set by an equal amount from the appropriation recommendation.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

DOH reports Socorro is considered a "frontier" county with a population density of 2.7 persons per square mile. In 2006, there were 275 live births to residents of Socorro County, with 11.3% of these births to mothers who received little or no prenatal care. Socorro ranked 16th out of New Mexico's 33 counties for the percent of live births to women receiving low or no prenatal care. In 2006 in Socorro, 18.9% of births were to teenagers, ages 15-19 years. (New Mexico Selected Health Statistics 2006) and 12.0% were preterm. Socorro County was designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (*NM Health Policy Commission, Quick Facts 2008*).

The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) funds a community health council for Socorro County under the Maternal and Child Health Plan Act. The fiscal agent for the council is Socorro Mental Health, Inc. Members of the health council, in cooperation with Socorro County Options, Prevention and Education (SCOPE), assess health needs of the county and have developed strategies for community action for addressing these needs. The Socorro General Hospital Maternal and Child Health Program received funds (\$45,738 in FY08) to cover the costs of perinatal and family health services made available for residents ineligible for such services through Medicaid. The Department did receive a special, non-recurring appropriation in FY09 in the amount of \$35,000 to contract with Socorro County for perinatal health care (Laws 2008, Chapter 6, Section 26, Item 26).

In 2006, the average annual per capita income for Socorro County residents was \$23,275 vs. \$29,929 for the state (New Mexico Selected Health Statistics 2006). From 1998 through 2006, 63.9% Socorro County residents receiving prenatal care were covered by Medicaid, 20.9% were covered by private insurance, 1.9% were covered by Indian Health Service and 13.4% were covered by self-pay by the uninsured and/or written off at a loss by providers (*Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System/PRAMS data*).

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Socorro County will need to work with DOH to receive state funds for perinatal care.

GAC/mc