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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/28/09

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Military Corpsmen as Nurses SB 84

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$50.0	Non-recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Board of Nursing (BN)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 84 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Military Affairs to convene 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. The group convened under this legislation also would conduct an in-depth comparison of military and civilian nursing curricula and devise a curriculum for nursing licensure to allow military hospital corps members and medics to earn certification as a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY10 shall revert to the general fund.

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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Nursing Board notes.

According to the NM Nursing Practice Act 61-3 NMSA, the NM Board of Nursing has regulatory oversight to determine if an individual meets the requirements to take the national licensure examination in NM.

Currently individuals who have completed military medical corps training courses are able to have their transcript of training evaluated to determine if they have completed the minimum nursing requirements to be eligible for examination.

Each branch of the military medical corps trains their members differently. The requirements for the curricula related to military medical corps education is based on the specific charges for that branch of service. Consequently when an individual applies their transcripts and military requirements are different and are evaluated on an individual basis.

DOH contributes.

A process already exists and is in use by the New Mexico Board of Nursing. Military corpsmen and medics need to be made aware of the existing process and be encouraged to have their transcripts and training records reviewed. In New Mexico, these military members may ask the New Mexico Board of Nursing to review their training and advise them of any missing elements. New Mexico schools of practical nursing will allow these individuals to take the missing courses (usually Obstetrics and Gynecology and Psychiatric Nursing). After completion of the missing elements, the individual can take the licensure exam. When an individual's record indicates that he or she has received appropriate training in all of the required elements, the individual is allowed to take the exam without additional training.

DMA adds.

The NM National Guard does not have a Hospital Corp or a full-time medical staff and the bill probably relates more to the regular army rather than the national guard.. For this reason the appropriation should probably go to another agency.

MW/mt