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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/09

SPONSOR Keller LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE LFC Community Health Impact Information SB 256

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY09 | FY10 | FY11 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Total | | \$0.1 Indeterminate | \$0.1 Indeterminate | | Recurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 256 amends Section 2-5-4.1 NMSA 1978 to require the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) to include community health impact information when evaluating pending legislation and providing fiscal impact information to the legislature.

The bill defines “community health” to mean health from a broad perspective within behavioral, physical and dental populations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

If the intent of the bill is for LFC to conduct a specific kind of analysis to collect and analyze data not being provided by the state’s agencies with expertise in health, then additional staff and resources will be needed. The bill does not provide an appropriation to support this effort.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The LFC is being directed to cooperate with the executive and various state agencies and any persons it chooses with expertise in community health matters. HSD reports that during any

legislative session, the department is asked by the LFC to contribute an analysis for between 200 and 400 bills. LFC staff report that almost all bills that pertain to community health come to HSD, DOH and the Health Policy Commission (HPC) for analysis.

The Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) will be required to include the potential impact on the community's health in broad terms, including behavioral, physical and dental health indicators; epidemiology, obesity, nutrition, fitness, respiratory health, birth and mortality rates, disease and injury prevention, control and treatment, health professions, and health delivery systems. LFC staff report that appropriate community health impact information the committee receives from the state's agencies with expertise in health is usually entered in the FIR under "significant issues" or "substantive issues".

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill asks the LFC to cooperate with the Office of the Governor, Department of Finance and Administration, Taxation and Revenue Department, DOH, HSD, HPC and persons with expertise in community health matters, when evaluating pending legislation with an impact on community health. LFC currently depends on receiving information about the community health impact of potential legislation from HPC, DOH, HSD, HED and other state public and private entities and resources that the LFC has identified as having the most current and readily accessible health data.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH and HSD reports that the departments currently provide the LFC with community health information, epidemiological data, and health disparities information on all health issues where appropriate.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill is unclear if the LFC is being required to cooperate with state agencies; but being requested to consult with persons with health expertise.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH notes that health may also be affected by chemical, physical and biological agents.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

LFC will continue to request analyses when appropriate from state agencies with expertise in health before completing the FIR.

AMENDMENTS

DOH recommends adding the phrase "health disparities" to Page 2, line 19, after the phrase "injury prevention, control and treatment".

AHO/svb