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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/09

SPONSOR Fischman LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Retired Dentist Malpractice Insurance SM 16

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 16, Retired Dentist Malpractice Insurance, resolves that DOH study ways to allow retired dentists to practice, ways to include them in DOH's malpractice insurance and ways to issue limited licensing and limited continuing education credit requirements so that they may practice without significant expense or liability.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reports the US Surgeon General states "oral health is integral to general health." The federal government has designated all or part of 29 New Mexico counties as dental shortage areas. Similar shortages are found nationally and 26 states have changed licensure requirements for retired dentists to volunteer in public health settings to improve access.

RLD states the current cost for a license is approximately \$500 and 60 hours of continuing education tri-annually. The New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care of the Boards and Commissions Program of RLD licenses dentists in New Mexico.

### ALTERNATIVES

Consideration should be given to make DOH and RLD jointly responsible for conducting the study to emphasize the dual responsibilities in using dentists and the separate licensure.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

On page 2, line 2, after the word “health” insert “and the regulation and licensing department”.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What has been done in licensing retired dentists in other states?
2. What other incentives besides licensure need to be considered to encourage retired dentists to practice in rural areas of New Mexico?
3. Will DOH incur expenses to equip public health offices with dental furnishings and supplies to allow dentists to practice in its facilities? If so, what is the estimated cost per public health office?

GAC/mc