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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/12
LAST UPDATED 02/09/12 **HB** 90/aHHGAC

SPONSOR Brown

SHORT TITLE Videoconferencing for Interim Committees **SB** _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY12	FY13	FY14	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$0.0	Potential Impact	See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Legislative Council Service (LCS) via telephone discussion

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Health and Government Affairs Committee Amendment

The House Health and Government Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 90 makes the following changes.

The Legislative Council could ask “up to” rather than “at least” five interim committees to participate in the pilot project.

Language specifying that participating committee members would not receive per diem and mileage for attendance at a meeting through videoconferencing is changed a project outcome determination of “whether videoconferencing committee members shall receive per diem for attendance at a meeting through videoconferencing.”

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 90 (HB90) would establish a pilot project to evaluate the efficacy of allowing legislative committee members to attend committee meetings by videoconference. The Legislative Council and collaborate with interim committee chairpersons to identify five committees and the specific members to participate in the project. Other evaluation criteria include whether the number of participants in any one videoconference should be limited and the acceptable quality of the acceptable quality of the hardware and software needed to ensure the public attending a committee meeting can see and hear videoconferencing members.

The Legislative Council Services would manage the project, and prepare a report to the Legislative Council by December 31, 2012 with findings and recommendations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 90 makes no appropriation.

Fiscal impact on the LCS operating budget is expected to be immaterial. Members of interim committees participating in this pilot project will not receive mileage and per diem for attending a meeting through videoconferencing.

Because the report to the Legislative Council will include information on the need for hardware and software upgrades to the state capitol to make videoconferencing successful for committees and the public, there is no three-year operating budget impact shown. It is possible recommendations in the report could result in an impact on the LCS operating budget in FY14.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The use of certain features of New Mexico Computing Application Center, the state's supercomputer, for high-speed high-definition videoconferencing is a possibility for the project and would be a "value-added" benefit from the state's investment.

CH/svb:lj