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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Kane ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/14  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 287  
SHORT TITLE Firefighter Supplemental Benefits SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		See Fiscal Impact				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 287 amends Section 10-11B-5 NMSA 1978 by increasing the survivorship benefits for firefighters killed in the line of duty from \$50 thousand to \$250 thousand.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The state provides a \$250 thousand survivor benefit when a public safety officer dies in the line of duty. The bill proposes the same amount as a supplemental survivor benefit for firefighters.

The EMNRD notes that volunteer fire department firefighters, who are often the first responders, would also be covered and the increased benefits would apply to them as well.

The Fire Protection Fund (Section 59A-53-7 NMSA 1978) makes distributions to the Firefighters Survivor Fund when the balance drops below \$50 thousand. If the provisions in the bill become law, the Legislature should consider amending the distribution to \$250 thousand.

The cash balance for the Fire Protection Fund was \$32.6 million as of December 2013.

The cash balance for the Firefighters Survivors Fund was \$68 thousand as of December 2013.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The bill amends a section in law that provides survivorship benefits to the surviving spouse or children of firefighters killed in the line of duty, or to the surviving parents if there is no surviving spouse or children.

EMNRD reports the department employs firefighters to suppress wildland fires in dangerous conditions. DHSEM reports firefighters are involved in responses coordinated by the department during critical incidents (fire, floods, hazardous materials or winter weather events, etc.).

**DUPLICATION**

Duplicates SB 190.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Family members of firefighters killed in the line of duty will continue to receive \$50 thousand.

AHO/ds