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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Salazar, T **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/03/14
LAST UPDATED 02/06/14 **HJM** 4/aHCPAC
SHORT TITLE NM Family Caregiver Task Force **SB** _____
ANALYST Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$14.0			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

HJM 3 is a companion to HJM 4

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HCPAC Amendments

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee amendment to House Joint Memorial 4 adds to the family caregiver task force’s membership a representative of the New Mexico direct caregivers coalition appointed by the president of the board of directors of the coalition.

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 4 would create a task force to identify resources and programs for family caregivers to be convened by the secretary of the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) and to be composed of members including the Human Services Department (HSD) secretary (or designee), the HSD Medical Assistance Division Director (or designee) and various representatives from the stakeholder community.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HJM 4 does not include an appropriation.

HSD indicates HJM 4 would require participation of HSD staff at an approximate cost of \$14 thousand.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HSD indicates the task force would receive testimony on the needs of caregivers including:

- Designation of caregivers
- Training of caregivers
- Respite services
- Medical leave policies
- Delegation of tasks to non-medical aids

The task force would also be required to make policy recommendations regarding family caregivers in the state, compile an inventory of resources available to family caregivers, and develop a plan for family caregivers in New Mexico.

ALTSD would be required to report on the work of the task force to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by November 1, 2015.

A task force was created in 2010 to address this issue, and it determined there were insufficient resources to provide training to caregivers. In addition, the task force found there were insufficient resources to fund respite services while caregivers were training.

ALTSD indicates the task force created by HJM 4 would build on the work of the recently-completed New Mexico State Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias, which addressed caregiver needs and strategies specific to family caregivers of people with dementia.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

ALTSD indicates due to the structure of the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the bill could be amended regarding appointments to the task force of “one representative from each of the four area agencies on aging,” (P. 4, lines 3 and 4) and of “one representative of the senior companion programs,” (P. 4, lines 23 and 24) to be made by the ALTSD secretary rather than the chief of the senior services bureau.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTSD indicates an estimated 287,000 New Mexicans serve as caregivers at any given time, and the economic value of the care they provide is \$3.1 billion. In the absence of family caregivers, these costs would fall more directly upon government systems, particularly Medicaid. A Congressional Budget Office report (2013) claims the economic value of unpaid family caregiving exceeds the combined total of institutional care and home and community based services for persons over age 65.

The tasks associated with family caregiving are myriad, and can include management of finances, medications, transportation, housekeeping, nutrition and more. Research indicates caregiving for chronically ill family and friends has significant negative impact on caregivers’ physical and psychological health, finances and retirement.