

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/22/14

SPONSOR Smith, Je **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HM** 9

SHORT TITLE School Athlete & Veteran Concussion Study **SB** _____

ANALYST Geisler

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$100.0			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 9 (HM 9) requests that the brain injury advisory council be requested to conduct a study to identify the incidence of concussions in student athlete and veteran populations; to identify current practices for the diagnosis and management of concussions; and to identify regional needs regarding concussion diagnosis and management, particularly with respect to those living in rural and frontier areas

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) has requested a \$100 thousand general fund special appropriation for this study; it was not funded in the LFC recommendation and was funded for \$50 thousand in the Executive recommendation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Brain Injury Council (BIAC) of the Governor's Commission on Disability notes that traumatic brain injury is called the silent epidemic. It is an injury that often can't be seen or easily detected. Sports related youth concussions and blast injuries lead to mild traumatic brain

injury in children and the military. Often these injuries are undiagnosed which leads to under-reporting when data is collected. A statewide concussion assessment would identify the incidence of sports-related and military related concussions in the youth and veteran population, identify current practices for the diagnosis and management of sports-related concussion regarding return-to-play and return-to-learn for children and identify regional needs of New Mexicans, particularly those living in rural, frontier areas.

The funding will be spent to fund a statewide concussion needs assessment administered by researchers/neuropsychologists targeting youth and veterans. The goal of this assessment is to determine the level of need for and the establishment of a multidisciplinary clinic and training program in NM to diagnose and manage concussion using a telehealth model. The clinic would provide direct patient evaluation and treatment of sports-related and military-related concussion. It is hoped that the clinic would offer diagnosis and treatment for a wider range of New Mexicans who sustain mild traumatic brain injury.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The BIAC notes that without an assessment we will not know the extent of the problem, nor will be able to effectively address the problem. We know that mild traumatic brain injuries are under-reported and also recognize that if mild traumatic brain injuries are detected that management and treatment can vary depending on geographic area, access to medical professionals and other factors.

If we can better identify, diagnose, manage and educate people about concussions, particularly at an earlier stage, recovery will be improved. Early treatment offers a significant lifetime cost savings.

GG/ds