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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez, R. **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/31/14
LAST UPDATED 02/11/14 **HM** 28/aHHGIC

SHORT TITLE Study Recreational Therapies **SB** _____

ANALYST Martinez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HHGIC Amendment

The House Health, Government and Indian Affairs Committee amendment to House Memorial 28 strikes out in entirety any language requiring the task force convened to examine the possibility of combining licensing and oversight authorities for recreational therapists, physical therapists and occupational therapists.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Memorial 28 will require the Superintendent of the Regulation and Licensing Department to convene a task force to examine the need for recreational therapy licensure in the state and make recommendations for legislation to provide for the safe and accountable practice of recreational therapy in the state. The task shall examine the possibility of combining recreational therapists, physical therapy, and occupational therapists into one licensing board. This task force shall include representatives from the office of the governor; recreational therapists who practice in the state; the board of examiners for occupational therapy; the physical therapy board; Legislative Finance Committee staff; Legislative Council Service staff; and the chair of the department of allied health at Western New Mexico University.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No Fiscal Impact

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

It is estimated that 200 recreational therapists currently exist in the state.

LFC analysis from 2013 found:

Currently there are four states that have licensure for Recreational Therapy.

The Utah board of Recreational Therapy was contacted to estimate the number of licensees, fees, and provisions of a Recreational Therapy board. Utah currently licenses over 300 Therapeutic Recreational Technicians (TRTs), another 300 Therapeutic Recreational Specialist (TRS), and 60 Master Recreational Therapeutic Specialist (MTRS). Each level of licensee is required to pay a one-time application fee of seventy dollars (\$70.00), and a bi-annual renewal charge of forty seven dollars (\$47.00).

All licensees in the state of Utah are required to complete thirty hours of continuing education every two years.

RM/svb:jl