

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](http://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 3/03/15  
 SPONSOR Johnson LAST UPDATED 3/08/15 HM 70/aHGEIC  
 SHORT TITLE Expand Radiation Workers Benefits SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST McReynolds

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SM 101

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Indian Affairs (DIA)

#### Responses Not Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Amendment

The House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs (HGEIC) amendment to House Memorial 70 strikes “1645” throughout the bill, and replaces it with “994”. This is due to the fact that “1645” references a non-current piece of United States House legislation that was not re-introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress.

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 70 requests the New Mexico Congressional Delegation support amendments to expand compensation under the Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act for individuals exposed to radiation and that United States Representative Ben R. Lujan and U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich be congratulated for introducing legislation to expand the rights of individuals exposed to radiation.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Indian Affairs Department (IAD) reports that, “Although the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act was designed to serve as an expeditious, low-cost alternative to avoid litigation it still did not fully cover everyone affected by uranium exposure.”

Out of 5,000 Navajo uranium workers approximately 1,000 were expected to have died by the year 2000, and vital status for these workers has not been updated since the 1990s.

The federal bill proposed (S.331) would extend compensation to uranium workers exposed through 1990; expand the list of eligible workers to include uranium core drillers, uranium miners, millers and ore transporters as potentially eligible for compensation under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; broaden the list of downwind area to include New Mexico and make all qualifying claims eligible for one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) of compensation regardless of job title during exposure.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

H.R. 1645, as referenced in HM 70 and SM 101, was not reintroduced for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

KM/bb/aml