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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/05/15

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Expand Radiation Workers Benefits SM 101/aSRC

ANALYST McReynolds

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HM 70

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Responses Not Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee (SRC) amendment to Senate Memorial 101 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 114th U.S. Congress.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 101 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 five thousand 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 thousand) of compensation regardless of job title during exposure.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

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

KM/bb/aml