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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 1/25/2016

**SPONSOR** Roch/Dodge      **LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_      **HB** 186

**SHORT TITLE** Study Emergency Services Funding      **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Chenier

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$300.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Regulation Commission (PRC)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 186 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to DOH to conduct a study in collaboration with the State Fire Marshall to determine how best to support emergency services statewide. The bill also requires the department to report to the appropriate interim committees no later than December 2016.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH stated that emergency medical service (EMS) agencies, especially in rural and frontier areas of New Mexico, report that funding educational and operational needs for emergency medical services is becoming increasingly difficult. The amount of local system funding for the state's EMS agencies available through the EMS Fund has decreased from \$2.9 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, to \$2.4 million in FY16. Local county and municipal governments have been

challenged to provide additional or adequate funding. A decrease in the number of volunteers available has been reported by multiple services in rural and frontier areas as well. This bill would request the DOH EMS Bureau to identify specific system issues and develop strategies to adequately develop and fund the statewide EMS system.

DOH also stated that without more clarity in the scope of emergency services or system issues to be evaluated, it is uncertain how this study could be staffed, coordinated and completed in under 9 months. A similar survey regarding statewide fire protection completed by the State Fire Marshal's Office took just over a year.

PRC stated that entities providing emergency medical services, including government and for profit, have indicated that they cannot provide adequate services or continue to operate without sources of additional funding. Although there is an EMS fund, it is not adequate to cover increased provider costs. The Fire Marshall Division does not have the budget or means to assist with field work for this study without compensation from the Health Department.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

HB186 incorrectly identifies the EMS Bureau as the "Injury Prevention and Emergency Medical Services Bureau of the Public Health Division."

EC/al