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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 2/8/2016  
**SPONSOR** Lechuga-Tena **LAST UPDATED** 2/13/2016 **HB** 287

**SHORT TITLE** Homeless and Veteran Behavioral Health **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Boerner

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$2,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		None Noted	None Noted			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to **HB 73** which would extend the Veterans Virtual Reality Treatment Pilot Project at Western New Mexico University through fiscal year 2018;

**SB 194** would appropriate \$41,667 from the liquor excise tax for the provision of a substance abuse detoxification and treatment center and homeless shelter;

**SB 219** appropriates \$5 million DFA for the construction and operation of a homeless shelter in Gallup; **SB 271** appropriates \$500 thousand for a substance abuse detoxification and treatment center and homeless shelter in the city of Gallup.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

Human Services Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 287 appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) of the Human Services Department from the general fund for substance abuse treatment and mental health services for homeless individuals and veterans statewide.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$2 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HSD, points out that about 17,000 New Mexicans experience homelessness over the course of a year according to the NM Coalition to End Homelessness. Federal estimates indicate that 18.5 percent of service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have post-traumatic stress disorder and 19.5 percent have traumatic brain injury. The Veterans Administration estimates that some 860 New Mexico veterans were homeless in 2008, the most recent year for which state-by-state survey data is available.

There are benefits for substance abuse treatment for adults in Centennial Care. Medical detoxification is a Medicaid benefit and BHSD is working to make these services available. Residential treatment and social detoxification programs for adults are not Medicaid benefits. Access to these services occurs through non-Medicaid funding sources.

In FY 2016, BHSD allocated about \$2.02 million in non-Medicaid state and federal funding for veterans and their families. BHSD also uses non-Medicaid state and federal funds for behavioral health services targeted at homeless individuals. Some services are provided for individuals with primary diagnoses of mental illness, but many also have co-occurring substance use conditions. Both homeless persons and veterans are also eligible for the wide range of non-targeted services paid for with BHSD state and federal funds, and many also are eligible for Medicaid services under the expanded benefits provided within Centennial Care.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

VSD points out that currently there are no funds specifically targeting veterans and homeless for behavioral health. The appropriation in this bill is not specific in its target but is open to anyone seeking assistance. By targeting homeless persons and veterans, it would be good to have VSD and homeless programs included in the planning and disbursement of the funding. The language as written does not specifically identify who would approve the funding or which programs would be funded.

CB/al