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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/2016
SPONSOR Martinez **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE State Police Life Insurance Coverage **SB** 290

ANALYST Rogers

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
\$0.0	\$25.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0.0	\$66.0	\$66.0	\$132.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Responses not Received From

General Services Department (GSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 290 amends Section 29-2-29 NMSA 1978 requiring DPS to provide life insurance coverage for officers of \$100 thousand, a \$75 thousand increase over current statute. Coverage includes double indemnity provisions for death incurred in the line of duty.

The bill also appropriates \$25 thousand from the general fund to DPS for expenditure in FY17 to increase the amount available to provide life insurance benefits for officers and their beneficiaries.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DPS reports that GSD estimates the cost of additional basic and additional death and disability life insurance benefit to be \$66 thousand per fiscal year. DPS states that the proposed appropriation would be insufficient to cover the additional life insurance.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DPS states that in the past nine years, the department has lost five officers in the line of duty and an additional three outside of the line of duty who were active officers at the time they passed. The officers currently receive the \$50 thousand provided to all state employees plus an additional \$25 thousand that is statutorily provided as a basic life insurance benefit, with double indemnity for a death on the job. The additional \$75 thousand benefit provided by this bill could provide an enhancement to the current life insurance available to the spouses, children and families of our fallen officers.

Additionally, the Peace Officers' Survivors Fund, in addition to any other death benefits provided by law, pays \$250 thousand to the surviving spouse, children or parents as supplemental death benefits whenever a peace officer is killed in the line of duty. The fund is administered by the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

TMR/jle