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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/25/2016
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Behavioral Health EMT Training **SB** 66

ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$100.0	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		\$100.0	\$100.0	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 66 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to DOH to fund enhanced behavioral health services training for emergency medical technicians statewide by October 1, 2016.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring 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 provided the following:

There is a well-documented need in New Mexico for additional skilled behavioral health professionals and for increasing the availability of services provided to individuals needing treatment.

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) have a broad presence throughout the state and are found in every county of New Mexico. Through the course of their everyday work, EMT's come into contact with individuals who suffer from behavioral health issues that compound with their particular illness. Enhanced training in behavioral health for EMTs will reduce the impact of behavioral health professional shortages in rural and frontier areas until the patient obtains better care.

According to the Human Services Department (HSD), New Mexico has a significant shortage of behavioral health providers, especially in rural and frontier areas of the state. Every county in New Mexico includes at least one area designated by the federal government as a behavioral health professional shortage area. Primary care clinics regularly identify individuals in need of care making referrals for specialized behavioral health assessments or services, but few qualified behavioral health providers are available. (Independent Assessment of New Mexico's Medicaid Managed Care Program –Behavioral Health Statewide Entity, June 2013).

As the first health care provider to arrive on scene to support individuals in need, EMTs need to be adequately trained to handle situations involving people who may be experiencing mental health crises or emergencies, including those associated with mood, anxiety, anger, substance use, and major mental illness.

In the current EMT curriculum at New Mexico schools, which varies but must meet national standards, there is minimal training in dealing with agitated patients who may be experiencing behavioral health issues. Introductory training is included in licensure-level courses for EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic. However, there are few continuing education opportunities for behavioral emergencies after licensure. This bill would impact the development of an enhanced behavioral emergency curriculum. As an example, in the national standard curriculum for EMT-Basic, behavioral emergencies constitute only one lesson within a module that has eleven other lessons.

EC/al