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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Brandt ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/16  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Study Opioid Abuse SM 104

ANALYST Chenier

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	Minimal	Minimal	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 104 requests the pain management advisory council to convene a task force consisting of qualified staff from the New Mexico House of Representatives, New Mexico Senate, several executive branch agencies, and several other organizations to study the impact of and ways to prevent opioid abuse and overdose while preserving access to appropriate pain treatment; study appropriate pain treatments, including abuse-deterrent formulation opioid therapies and alternatives to opioid prescriptions; and, provide data on opioid overdoses.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time would be needed to adequately address the requests in the memorial.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A central dilemma in current medical practice involves the treatment of pain. Physicians and other health care providers are charged with determining when their patients are suffering with pain (essentially impossible, as there is no objective way to assess pain in a patient and different patients experience pain differently). On the other hand, physicians have an important role in

helping to control the epidemic of opioid pain medication abuse by not over-prescribing these useful but dangerous drugs.

In response to HB241 the department of health provided the following:

Prescription opioid products are an important component of modern pain management. However, abuse and misuse of these products have created a serious and growing public health problem. One potentially important step towards the goal of creating safer opioid analgesics has been the development of opioids that are formulated to deter abuse. FDA considers the development of these products a high public health priority (fda.gov).

New Mexico's drug overdose death rate has been one of the highest in the nation for most of the last two decades. New Mexico's death rate has more than tripled since 1990. While deaths due to illicit drugs have remained steady during the past decade, deaths due to prescription drugs, particularly opioid pain relievers, have increased dramatically. In addition to the high death rates, drug abuse is one of the most costly health problems in the U. S. in 2007. Based on a national methodology derived by Birnbaum et al. in 2011, it was estimated that prescription opioid abuse, dependence, and misuse cost New Mexico \$890 million (Societal costs of opioid abuse, dependence, and misuse in the United States. *Pain Medicine*, 12(4):657-667). In 2013, New Mexico had the third highest total drug overdose death rate in the nation (<https://ibis.health.state.nm.us/report/saepi/summary/DrugOverdoseDth.html>).

Since opiate overdoses result from a variety of prescribed and illicit opiates from a variety of sources, a response will be most effective if it has multiple approaches that both prevent and respond quickly when they occur. The approaches proposed in this bill have potential to contribute effectively towards that goal.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How will information derived from the study be used?
2. Will a report be issued and to what bodies?
3. Will a report be issued to the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, and if so, should the committee provide direction to the task force?

EC/al