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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Johnson/Alcon/Louis/ ORIGINAL DATE 2/21/17
Lundstrom LAST UPDATED 2/27/17 HM 40/aHSIVC

SHORT TITLE Fed Radiation Exposure Compensation Act SB _____

ANALYST Armstrong

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None					

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SIVC Amendment

The State Government, Indian and Veterans' Affairs Committee amended the bill to correct references to pending legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 40 asks the New Mexico congressional delegation to continue to support proposed federal legislation to expand and improve compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act for individuals exposed to radiation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Public Law 101-426, passed in 1990, established the "Radiation Exposure Compensation Trust Fund" to compensate those who developed certain forms of cancer and lung disease possibly caused by exposure to airborne radiation from atmospheric nuclear testing or from exposure to radioactivity from uranium mining activities. The act limited compensation for "downwind exposure" to residents of specified parts of Utah, Arizona and Nevada, making no parts of New Mexico or other states eligible. Compensation was limited to \$100,000 at most, with no more than 10 percent of the settlement amount to be awarded as attorney's fees. All claims against the fund were to be made within 20 years of passage of the act.

Over the past several years, a number of bills have been introduced into Congress to amend the act. Currently, Senate Bill 197, co-sponsored by New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and other bipartisan, Western state senators, on January 24, 2017, is in process.

JA/jle