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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stapleton **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/7/18
LAST UPDATED 2/9/18 **HB** 251/aHHHC/aHAFC

SHORT TITLE County Behavioral Health Transportation Fund **SB** _____

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19	FY20		
	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	County Behavioral Health Medical Transport Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC)

No Response Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendments

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee amendments to House Bill 251 as amended by the House Health and Human Services Committee strike the \$1 million appropriation from the general fund to the “county behavioral health medical transport fund.”

Synopsis of HHHC Amendments

The House Health and Human Services Committee amendments to House Bill 251 clarify the name of the fund is the “county behavioral health medical transport fund,” and the fund would be used for behavioral health medical transport.

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 251 (HB 251) would create a new “county behavioral health transportation fund” consisting of a \$1 million general fund appropriation and allowing for other gifts, grants, donations and bequests made into the fund. The fund would provide reimbursement to counties for providing transportation for indigent patients for behavioral health services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 251 would create the “county behavioral health medical transport fund” to fund counties' medical transport of indigent patients to behavioral health services.

The fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, grants, donations and bequests made to the fund. Money in the fund is appropriated to the Human Services Department (HSD) for the purpose of making distributions to counties that apply for and, in accordance with HSD rules, qualify for funds for the medical transport of indigent patients to behavioral health services. Money in the fund shall be invested as provided for other state funds, and income earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

Continuing Appropriations

HB 251 would create a new fund and provides for continuing appropriations. The LFC has concerns with including continuing appropriation language in the statutory provisions for newly created funds, as earmarking reduces the ability of the Legislature to establish spending priorities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center indicates transportation for many indigent behavioral health patients presents a barrier to accessing care. Currently, under the state’s Medicaid program, managed care organizations (MCOs) are required to provide some transportation services. Also, some counties use local funds to provide medical transportation services.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Under the provisions of the bill, the Human Services Department (HSD) would need to promulgate rules for the purpose of making distributions to counties that apply for and qualify for funds for the transport of indigent patients to behavioral health services.

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center indicates this bill may create administrative burdens for counties and for behavioral health providers associated with new

reporting and accounting requirements for this new funding source. The level of administrative impact to counties and providers would be determined by the HSD requirements to receive funding under the program.

RAE/jle/sb