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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/2018

SPONSOR Gallegos/Little LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 27

SHORT TITLE Attorney General Upholding Responsibility SB _____

ANALYST Torres

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total | Indeterminate but minimal | Indeterminate but minimal | Indeterminate but minimal | Indeterminate but minimal | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The joint memorial asks the New Mexico Attorney General to conduct an investigation of certain findings of a select panel of the United States Congress on infant lives regarding the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and Southwestern Women’s Options. The joint memorial also urges the Attorney General to enforce New Mexico statutes pertinent to those findings.

The joint memorial references two referrals from the U.S. House select committee to the Attorney General. In the referral dated June 23, 2016, from select panel chair Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, it is indicated that the referral pertains to transfers of fetal tissue from an Albuquerque abortion clinic to researchers at UNM.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There may be fiscal constraints that can prevent the NMAG from carrying out a new investigation as the Memorial requests. As drafted, HJM 27 requests the NMAG to investigate UNM Health Services, however the Memorial provides no appropriation for that purpose for additional staff resources. To meet the request, the NMAG would need to commit resources and staff time within the limited constraints of its current budget and would need to account for the increased fiscal impact to the agency in the next fiscal cycle. Without additional funding, it may

be difficult to fully comply with the Memorial. The NMAG did not provide an analysis of the fiscal implications, but would absorb the costs with existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMAG has noted that the office has “ already reviewed and investigated the referrals from the select Committee. The Attorney General has communicated his decision to the relevant congressional officials, and deemed the matter closed. Therefore, there is no need for this Joint Memorial.”

IT/al