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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Maestas Barnes/
Ferrary/Armstrong D ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/18 LAST UPDATED _____ HM 90

SHORT TITLE Create Hunger Council SB _____

ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Minimal	Minimal	NFI	Minimal	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 136, House Memorial 55, Senate Joint Memorial 9/Senate Memorial 76 and 2017 Senate Bill 374

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 90 takes note of the high prevalence of poverty and hunger among New Mexico families and especially children, and cites much evidence of New Mexico’s standings with regard to both hunger and poverty. It requests that the New Mexico Legislative Council create a “hunger council” to study the issue of hunger in New Mexico, including making plans to break down the silos the memorial indicates separate agencies providing food assistance from one another and from the families they serve or might serve.

Members of the council would include:

- Legislators from the house and senate of both political parties
- Representatives from appropriate state agencies, to include the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the Human Services Department, Children, Youth and Families Department
- A member from the Association of Counties or another county representative
- A member from the Municipal League or another representative of the cities
- Representatives of organizations working to end hunger and poverty in New Mexico

state-wide and locally

- A representative from the Interfaith Hunger Coalition

The council is asked to draft a single, statewide plan to end hunger in New Mexico during the 2018 interim.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Agencies would expend personnel time on attending task force meetings and on researching approaches to the problem of hunger in New Mexico.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial makes note of the high prevalence of hunger and poverty in New Mexico, especially including data from Kids Count 2018, available at <http://www.nmvoices.org/nm-kids-count>. In the case of Kids Count, the effects of poverty and hunger are spelled out with respect to children in particular. Hunger, or food security as it also known, has been shown to be severely detrimental to children, including to their ability to learn in school. An American Academy of Pediatrics statement, Promoting Food Security for All Children, further details its effects on children. The abstract for the statement is as follows, and the full article is available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/5/e1431.long>:

Sixteen million US children (21 percent) live in households without consistent access to adequate food. After multiple risk factors are considered, children who live in households that are food insecure, even at the lowest levels, are likely to be sick more often, recover from illness more slowly, and be hospitalized more frequently. Lack of adequate healthy food can impair a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school and is linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems from preschool through adolescence. Food insecurity can affect children in any community, not only traditionally underserved ones. Pediatricians can play a central role in screening and identifying children at risk for food insecurity and in connecting families with needed community resources. Pediatricians should also advocate for federal and local policies that support access to adequate healthy food for an active and healthy life for all children and their families.

Feeding America, a national coalition to end hunger in the US, discusses the growing importance of the problem of hunger among the elderly as well:

The rate of hunger among seniors aged 60 and older has increased by 53 percent since 2001, a lingering effect of the 2008-09 recession. In fact, the number of seniors struggling with hunger is projected to increase by another 50 percent when the youngest of the baby-boom generation reaches 60 in 2025. And hunger pains can be increasingly painful as we age:

- 63 percent of senior households served by the Feeding America network are forced to choose between food and medical care.
- Households served by the Feeding America network that include an adult of the age 50 or older are at an increased risk of having someone with a chronic health

condition, including diabetes (41 percent) and high blood pressure (70 percent) — conditions that can be mitigated by healthy food options. (www.feedingamerica.org).

- Only 42 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled and receiving SNAP benefits (formerly Food Stamps) — making assistance programs for SNAP enrollment that much more important for seniors.

RELATIONSHIP with

- House Bill 136 Childhood Poverty Awareness Training Act
- House Memorial 55 Reduce School Food Waste
- Senate Joint Memorial 9/Senate Memorial 76 Study Cuts to Senior Citizen Services, and
- 2017 Senate Bill 374 Hunger-Free Students’ Bill of Rights Act

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The memorial does not specify to which group(s) the council’s report would be made.

LAC/jle