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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR De La Cruz/Garcia/Castellano LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/24/23
SHORT TITLE Transportation for Disabled Veterans BILL NUMBER House Bill 402
ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$1,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill

House Bill 402 (HB402) appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to Veterans' Services Department (VSD) for expenditure in FY23 through FY26 to establish a program to provide disabled veterans with transportation to and from medical appointments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall revert to the general fund. Although House Bill 402 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new grant program could create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HAFC substitute for House Bill 2 includes an increase of \$375 thousand in the FY24 for veteran transportation services. VSD offers transportation services by contracting with various transportation suppliers around the state to provide rides to veterans. The department reported, if HB402 is enacted, the agency would likely need an additional FTE for coordination and data analysis for the program. VSD estimated the FTE would cost \$75 thousand.

VSD reported there are over 148 thousand veterans in New Mexico. The department currently provides transportation for veterans who reside in 15 highly rural counties. VSD also reported there is little to no medical transportation specified for tribal communities and a need for medical transportation in Gallup, Grants, Farmington, and southeast New Mexico.

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