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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** King **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/02/09  
**LAST UPDATED** 02/10/09 **HB** 455

**SHORT TITLE** Protect Children from Methamphetamine **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$500.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

#### No Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 455 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Attorney General's Office for the purpose of a statewide project that protects children against methamphetamine by raising awareness about the negative consequences and risks associated with the use of methamphetamine.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) research shows that prevention programs in middle schools can have an impact on methamphetamine use among rural and frontier youth in their adolescent years, and shows that early intervention efforts reinforce healthy norms and increase resiliency factors in youth. (<http://www.nida.nih.gov>)

The Department of Health adds that in 2006, the overdose death rate for all ages from methamphetamine was 1.7 per 100,000. This was lower than the overdose death rate for heroin (5.3 per 100,000) and for cocaine (5.7 per 100,000). The number of deaths from methamphetamine overdose climbed from 10 in 2002 to 35 in 2005; then decreased to 31 in 2006. This does not necessarily signal a leveling or decline in the methamphetamine death rate for the future. Methamphetamine death rates were the highest in southeast and northwest New Mexico (Drug Overdose in New Mexico; NM Epidemiology Report, June 1, 2007). The reported rate for drug-related deaths in New Mexico for youth aged 0-24 was 2.8 per 100,000. These rates were almost doubled for Black Non-Hispanic males (4.8 per 100,000) and Hispanic males (6 per 100,000) for the same age category (2005 New Mexico State Epidemiology Profile).

Furthermore, DOH explains, youth drug use is associated with suicide, early unwanted pregnancy, school failure, delinquency, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Among high school aged children, there is a higher prevalence of methamphetamine use in New Mexico than in the rest of the country. In 2007, lifetime methamphetamine use for high school students in New Mexico at 7.7 percent was almost twice that of the national rate of 4.4 percent. New Mexico ranks third in the nation for lifetime methamphetamine use among high school students compared to the other 39 states participating in the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey. There was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of methamphetamine use among NM high school students by region or by rural/urban residence. (2007 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) CYFD data for the first quarter of FY09 identifies methamphetamine as a contributing factor in approximately 22 percent of the foster care cases investigated by CYFD.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

HB455 relates to

- Senate Bill 241, which would appropriate \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Children, Youth, and Families Department for a youth conservation corps to provide drug abuse prevention and harm reduction services to youth twelve to twenty-one years of age in the Chimayo area of Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties.
- House Bill 117, which would amend Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 360, Section 10, as amended); to be amended regarding definitions of “30-6-1 Abandonment or abuse of a child”. The amendment would state that placing a child in a home environment where methamphetamine is used would be child abuse.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

Children, Youth and Families Department recommends making the distinction on lines 18 and 19 to read “protect children from methamphetamine” versus “protect children against methamphetamine.”