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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-8-09

SPONSOR Alcon LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 36

SHORT TITLE Office of District Attorneys Consolidation SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$0.1			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

No Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 36 asks the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys to collaborate with the 14 elected district attorneys to study the feasibility, costs and benefits of centralizing human resources, purchasing and contracting activities under the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys. It further asks the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys to identify duplicative activities and could benefit from centralization including human resources, purchasing, contracting and other business activities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Consolidation of the functions identified could result in overall cost savings by eliminating functions duplicated in fourteen district attorney offices. The cost to conduct the study will be minimal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The fourteen district attorneys are independently elected state officials and each district attorney office has staff responsible for its office's human resources, purchasing needs and contractual services. DFA suggests that while the district attorneys may not object to collaborating on the feasibility of consolidating these functions it is doubtful that they would voluntarily give up these functions regardless of the outcome of such a study. There may be a compromise regarding the three functions. The district attorneys could decide to consolidate purchasing however it appears unlikely at this point that they would agree to consolidating its human resources and contracting responsibilities.

When completed the study should describe the AODA's ability to handle the additional responsibilities, the number of additional staff needed to accomplish the added functions and address the issue of delays in processing time for each of the identified functions. Due to the geographical nature of the district attorney agencies, it is unlikely that the individual district attorneys would be comfortable with consolidation of the identified functions, as the AODA maintains only two offices, one in Santa Fe and the other in Albuquerque.

DFA further adds that district attorneys often have close working relationships with local units of government and with tribal governments. These relationships often result in fiscal impacts, i.e., grants, contracts, MOAs or MOUs with attendant contractual or human resource implications. These implications are often specific to location (district/tribal unit) and often contain the ability of the individual district attorney to hire or contract for addition staff to accomplish the responsibilities attached to the grant/contract/MOU/MOA. It is unlikely the district attorney would be comfortable having this type of agreement become centralized.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If the feasibility study proves to provide cost saving through centralizing some of the administrative functions, the staff in the individual offices currently tasked with these job functions could be reassigned to serve in other capacities. Among the expansion items often requested by district attorneys are clerks and secretaries for attorneys. Redistribution of tasks could improve performance.

EO/mt