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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/11/09

SPONSOR Crook LAST UPDATED _____ HM 53

SHORT TITLE Prevention Of Teen Dating Violence SB _____

ANALYST Haug

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non- Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$2.6			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 53 requests that the PED and the DOH convene a work group to study and develop recommendations regarding prevention of teen dating violence in New Mexico with the work group including representation from the children's cabinet, the New Mexico Youth Alliance, the New Mexico Forum For Youth In Community, the New Mexico Commission On The Status Of Women, the Children, Youth And Families Department, community youth organizations, public school districts, school health educators and counselors, school-based health clinics and other appropriate organizations and individuals.

The work group would present a written report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor and the legislative education study committee by October 1, 2009, including strategies for educating parents, raising public awareness and utilizing and integrating existing resources as much as possible.

The work group is requested to utilize electronic meeting venues, where possible.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PED states It would take approximately 80 hours of time for an Education Administrator–A to serve on the study group and assist in the development and presentation of the written report Total cost is \$2.6 thousand.

The DOH states that the memorial would have no fiscal impact for the DOH.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Dating violence among teens and young adults has become an increasingly visible problem in our society.

Teen dating violence cuts across race, gender and socioeconomic lines, affecting both males and females, although females are injured more severely and more frequently.

Teen dating violence includes a spectrum of abusive behaviors, including isolation, anger, emotional abuse, domination and control, intimidation, threats and sexual coercion as well as overt violence.

Teens in violent relationships are at risk of being killed by their abusive partners and are eight to nine percent more likely to attempt suicide.

Teen dating violence is linked to poor school attendance and poor academic achievement.

Teens in violent dating relationships are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.

Teen dating violence may result in depression, anxiety and eating disorders.

Teens who are experiencing dating violence are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy.

A national survey shows that nearly twenty-five percent of surveyed youth fourteen to seventeen years old report knowing at least one student victim of dating violence, and thirty-three percent of these young people report having witnessed such an event.

In a guide to safe and healthy relationships that was developed by New Mexico teens, titled *Love and Respect*, teens state that dating violence is a major issue in New Mexico.

According to a 2007 youth and resiliency survey, one in nine high school students in the state report being hit by their boyfriends or girlfriends within the past year, which exceeds the national average.

New Mexico standards for excellence for health education in grades five through twelve contain a strong emphasis on helping young people to develop the skills and knowledge to recognize both healthy and unhealthy behaviors in personal relationships and to make healthy choices in the face of risks, threats and dangers.

Many state agencies, organizations and advocates are taking action in numerous venues to raise the awareness of teens, parents and the public about teen dating violence.

A wealth of resources has been developed to help teens make healthy choices and stay safe in relationships, including web sites, teen-developed videos, media campaigns, school curricula and classroom materials.

The DOH states:

The study of teen dating violence (TDV) proposed in HM53 could bring additional focus on evidence-based teen dating violence prevention and intervention. TDV programs are designed to teach young people the key elements of a healthy, respectful relationship, compromise and cooperation, as well as training peer moderators in intervention and dispute resolution techniques. More research is needed in order to find and recommend culturally appropriate and evidence-based prevention policies and programs for each appropriate grade level. The study can also look closer into the relationship between bullying behaviors and teen dating violence behaviors.

Research into TDV should also include consideration of legal issues. TDV prevention policies and programs can also protect the state from potential lawsuits. At this point, lawsuits initiated by parents have been focused on the failure of schools to protect students from harassment, which created a hostile environment where learning could not take place. It is conceivable that some parents who find their child harassed by a boyfriend or girlfriend on school grounds could sue a school or teacher for failure to adequately supervise and protect the victim.

The PED notes that according to the 2008 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NMYRRS) :

Teen dating violence (having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boy or girlfriend) was reported by 12.6% of New Mexico high school students;

9.2% reported ever being physically forced to have sexual intercourse;

Girls (11.6%) were more likely to have been forced to have sex than boys (6.9%); and African Americans (15.9%) were more likely to report being forced to have sex than Hispanics (9.7%) or Whites 7.2%).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The DOH notes that HM53 relates to the Governor's Performance and Accountability Contract, Goal 4: Improve Behavioral Health through an Interagency Collaborative Model, Task 4.1 Reduce suicide among youth and high-risk individuals. HM53 also relates to the State of New Mexico 2008 Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan, Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention, Goal 3: Promote Behavioral Health.

RELATIONSHIP

House Memorial 53 is related to House Bill 615 which addresses the same topic.

GH/mt