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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 02/23/09
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Procurement for Crime Victim Grant Contracts SB 680
ANALYST Archuleta

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		Various

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

General Services Department (GSD)

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 680 amends the Procurement Code providing an exemption to the procurement of contracts for the disbursement of federal grants received from the Victims of Crime Act and STOP Violence Against Women Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Neither GSD, nor the Crime Victims Reparation Commission indicated a fiscal impact associated with this bill. However, some cost could be incurred in the implementation of the bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CVRC indicates they are unable to provide hands-on grant writing technical assistance to organizations during the RFP process as they have done in the past and are encouraged by the U.S. Department of Justice. The State Procurement requirements penalize small, grass roots organizations that may be doing good work but do not have experienced grant writers.

According to GSD, the bill will allow the Crime Victims Reparation Commission to procure the agencies and vendors which are qualified to participate in helping victims of crime in a faster, easier method.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to CVRC, grants can be distributed more efficiently and timely using the CVRC procurement process.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CVRC states that the bill will reduce the time spent on grants related to the Victims of Crime Act and STOP Violence Against Women Act by the State Procurement Officer and CVRC.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to CVRC, federal requirements address outreach to marginalized communities to recruit them to apply for funds and to assist them in the process. CVRC is unable to do so under the current situation. In the past, extra "points" were given during the review process for an application from a geographic area with no services. The State Procurement requirement prevents this emphasis. Therefore, one of the grant requirements to give priority considerations to rural communities with limited or no services does not occur.

The majority of the projects are requesting continuation awards due to the agencies being the only one providing specialized services for victims of crime in their regions. As grant administrators, CVRC has knowledge of an agency's ability to comply with state and federal guidelines, reporting requirements and whether or not they are meeting the current objectives of their projects. All this valuable information is not allowed during the State Procurement Proposal Review Process. If a current agency is doing a poor job of reporting and/or is not meeting the objectives as outlined in the current fiscal year, but their next fiscal year proposal meets all the RFP requirements, it is not fiscally sound to award them the amount requested. CVRC provides technical assistance during the year to help the projects improve on any areas that need strengthening and gives them sufficient time to do so. If no improvement is seen within the fiscal year, then CVRC needs to be able to take this information into the review process so the review committee can take this into consideration before deciding on awarded amounts.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The disbursement of these grants will continue to be subject to the procurement code.

DA/mt