

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/19/09  
 LAST UPDATED 02/28/09 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR Griego, E.

SHORT TITLE Unintended Pregnancies SJM 23/aSfI#1

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$0.1	\$0.1		Recurring	Various

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Human Services Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SFI Amendment #1

The Senate Floor Amendment #1 asks the panel to include in its analysis of the availability of private insurance and public benefits programs that provide family planning services, to also include the availability of programs that provide information on “family formation programs”.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUE

The National Council of State Legislatures website states that research has found that marriage, family structure and father involvement all have a direct impact on child well-being. States are beginning to explore programs that strengthen marriage, encourage responsible fatherhood and provide parenting skills to low-income parents as a component of their welfare services. These policies stem from the goal of the Federal Welfare Reform Act that encourages the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Both the LFC and executive budget recommendations for the TANF Program include \$600 thousand for strengthening families and fatherhood programs.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The Amendment may have a drafting error. It appears the word “information” should have been deleted before the phrase “family formation programs” was inserted.

### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 23 requests the New Mexico Health Policy Commission to convene an unintended pregnancy advisory panel to develop a comprehensive plan based on evidence- and science-based solutions to reduce the number of unintentional pregnancies. The panel will be composed of experts from HSD, DOH; public and behavioral health care providers; school based health professionals; legal and policy experts; and community representatives.

The advisory panel will be charged with studying and reviewing New Mexico specific data on unintended pregnancies compared with national statistics; analyzing the availability of education and prevention services and private insurance and public benefits programs, including in rural and underserved communities; and making recommendations regarding maximizing federal funding streams for these services. The panel would be required to make an interim report of its findings by October 1, 2010.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Members of the panel who are not paid by taxpayer funds may be able to receive per diem and mileage expenses pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

DOH reports that 48.6% of women who had less than a high school education receiving public assistance (48.1%) or with Medicaid paid prenatal care (44.4%), and gave birth in 2004-2005 had unintended pregnancies. State agencies will expertise in this area report that the negative social consequences of unintended and teen pregnancies are well documented.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

DOH reports that forty-three percent (43%) of all New Mexican women who had a live birth in 2004-05 had an unintended pregnancy. Rates for unintended pregnancy were higher among teens, Native American and Hispanic women, unmarried women, and those with less than a high school education.

DOH further reports that among women not trying to get pregnant, fewer than half (48%) said they and their partners were doing something to avoid a pregnancy. The most common reasons for not utilizing contraception were not minding a pregnancy, thinking a pregnancy could not occur when it did or having a husband or partner who did not want to use birth control.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Participating state agencies report that the departments would need to attend meetings, conduct research of best practices and produce reports within limited existing staff and resources.

DOH has programs dedicated to the prevention of teen pregnancy and strategies for reducing negative health outcomes.

HSD's Medicaid program has a Family Planning Waiver to provide services to New Mexican women to help them avoid unintentional pregnancy.

CYFD's Protective Services provides services to teen parents, including services intended to prevent unplanned subsequent pregnancies and to ameliorate the negative effect of pregnancies on teen parents.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

HSD notes that women with intended pregnancies are more likely to obtain adequate prenatal care and less likely to use alcohol or tobacco during their pregnancy.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

New Mexico's agencies with expertise in this area will continue to be responsible for leading the state's efforts in addressing unintended pregnancies.

AHO/mt