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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/14

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Legislative Interim Children's Council SB 265

ANALYST Klundt

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 265 creates the Legislative Interim Children's Council, a temporary council authorized to function from the date of enactment until December 1, 2014, comprised of sixteen members: four (4) members from the House of Representatives, four (4) members from the Senate and eight (8) public or private sector whose professional expertise is related to the work of the council appointed equally by House and Senate. The Children's Council shall meet one time to develop a work plan and budget for the 2014 interim; following authorization, the council shall identify and address concerns that affect the children of New Mexico, and report its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation to the New Mexico legislative council on or before December 1, 2014.

This bill appropriates \$75 thousand from the general fund to the legislative council services to reimburse the per diem and mileage expenses of the children's council members and to pay other expenses, including contracting expenses, of the council. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This bill appropriates \$75 thousand from the general fund to the legislative council services to reimburse the per diem and mileage expenses of the children's council members and to pay other expenses, including contracting expenses, of the council. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the *2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, New Mexico ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the United States for overall child well-being (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7288-kids-countoverallrank?loc=1&loct=2#ranking2/any/true/36/any/14344>). This data book covers a broad range of child well-being issues, from children whose parents lack secure employment (37% in NM) to the percent of children in single parent families (43%) to the percent of children ages 3 to 4 not enrolled in preschool (62%).

The bill states the council shall identify and address issues that affect children in New Mexico. According to the CYFD, this is very broad and the bill does not specify any particular subject matter regarding the care and welfare of children in New Mexico. The agency states that as one of the Health and Human Service agencies in New Mexico, CYFD already reports to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee, the Courts Correction and Justice Committee, the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, and other legislative interim and standing committees as requested. CYFD believes the bill is unclear whether the council will be focusing in areas not already covered by these committees, or duplicating their efforts.

The Department of Health (DOH) stated that there are several bills related to early childhood task forces and councils which might be considered related to or duplicative of this bill. It might be useful to spell out the relationship, communication, and mutual support between the interim legislative children's council, the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), the Children's Cabinet, and the J. Paul Taylor Task Force.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

All of CYFD's performance measures affect the children of New Mexico. As such, recommendations made by this council are likely to affect CYFD performance measures.

This bill related to DOH FY15 Result One: Improve Health Outcomes for the people of New Mexico.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD anticipates that, given the broad reach and tight deadline specified in this bill, requests to CYFD for information would require up to 0.25 FTE to fulfill.

## RELATIONSHIP

- SM 29, requesting establishment of a behavioral health services review working group.
- SB 259, charging ELAC with development and submission of a comprehensive proposal for a statewide early childhood care and education system by November 1, 2014.
- HM 13 and SM 5 J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force, which requests that the task force be reconvened for an additional year.

## OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the KIDS COUNT data center, 29 percent of New Mexico children are living in poverty, as compared to 23 percent in the US; 62 percent of 3 and 4 year-olds are not enrolled in preschool, as compared to 54 percent in the US; 12 percent of 16-19 year-olds are not attending school and not working, as compared to 8 percent in the US; 48 percent of NM children are below basic in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading and 37 percent are below basic in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math as compared to the U.S. percentages of 33 percent and 27 percent respectively; and 33 percent of NM high school students do not graduate on time, as compared to 22 percent nationally. NM ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in Health with: 8.8 percent low birth weight babies; 9 percent children without health insurance; and rates of teen births at 49<sup>th</sup>, and child and teen deaths at 36.<sup>th</sup>

KK/svb:ds