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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Rawson DATE TYPED: 02/02/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Additional Otero County Magistrate Clerks SB 197
 ANALYST: Hayes

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 72.0			*Recurring	General Fund
	\$ 16.0			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*Magistrate Court Director provided capital outlay amount to be designated as non-recurring funding.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB197 appropriates \$88.0 from the general fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts for the purpose of providing salaries and benefits, supplies, furniture and office equipment for two additional court clerks in the Otero County magistrate court.

Significant Issues

New Mexico's Chief Judges Council reviewed all districts, metropolitan and magistrate requests for additional staffing needs. The Workload Measurement Study indicates a need for two additional clerks for the magistrate courts in Otero County (see the attached Judiciary Unit Resources Matrix compiled by AOC). As a result, the council voted to support the county's request for two additional clerk positions in Otero County. Neither the Executive or LFC recommended funding in FY02 for these court clerks.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Of the \$88.0 appropriation contained in this bill, \$72.0 is a recurring expense to the general fund and \$16.0 is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

At the current staffing level, the Otero magistrate court is unable to keep up with its caseload according to the Magistrate Court Director. Passage of this bill would provide the Otero County magistrate court with the staffing level needed to better manage its caseload. (Caseload statistics were not provided by the AOC in its bill analysis.)

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Add to SB197: Section 2, EFFECTIVE DATE.- -The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2001.

CMH/ar