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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Soules **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/11/14  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Doña Ana At-Risk Youth Intervention Program **SB** 213

**ANALYST** Armstrong

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
\$75.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SM 69, HM 64

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 213 appropriates \$75 thousand to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to research, design, and implement a pilot project to reduce early court intervention for at-risk youth in Doña Ana County. The bill also requires the School of Social Work to report to the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee in both FY15 and FY16.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill's appropriation of \$75 thousand is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU's School of Social Work has been conducting research and implementing programs for several years in cooperation with Doña Ana County. Past research and programs have focused on domestic violence, family violence risk factors, police reports, child abuse reports and driving while intoxicated rates. The appropriation in SB 213 is to allow the School of Social Work to develop research and establish a pilot program to divert youth away from the juvenile justice system and into a network of social services.

Drug courts are an example of diversion from the standard justice system. In 2006, *The Southwest Journal of Criminal Justice* published a study of the Eleventh Judicial District Juvenile Drug Court in San Juan County. Simply participating in, not necessarily completing, the drug court program significantly reduced recidivism rates. More than two-thirds of who did not participate in the program went on to have a subsequent arrest. Among the drug court group, 43.2 percent of those who did not graduate from the program received new charges subsequent to their release. However, drug court graduates recidivated at the lowest rate of all, 28 percent.

Ohio adopted a funding policy called RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternative to Incarceration of Minors) that provides funding to counties that treat juveniles who would otherwise be incarcerated and deducts funds for low-risk juveniles who are sent to state facilities. The policy has been highly successful, as the recidivism rate for moderate risk youth placed through RECLAIM was 22 percent, compared with a 54 percent rate for such offenders in juvenile detention centers.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

Senate Memorial 69 requests that both the Public Education Department and a working group of interested parties and individuals develop a comprehensive strategy and budget for educating children who have been suspended, expelled, or detained in the juvenile or criminal justice systems for misconduct.

House Memorial 64 requests that CYFD reconvene the steering committee first established pursuant to House Joint Memorial 21 (2012) to develop a plan to implement recommendations for realizing certain aims of the Children's Code and ensuring that access to children's services is uniform across geographic boundaries.

JA/svb:jl