

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 and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stewart ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Early Learners Events SB 224
ANALYST Kludt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
\$0	\$130.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 224 appropriates \$130 thousand from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department to fund coordinated events around the state that offer teachers, early childhood care providers and children and their families opportunities to experience early learners' creativity and competence in learning in diverse educational and cultural settings.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$130 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund.

In addition, CYFD is charged with developing a website, webinar and other resources to provide continued learning opportunities to teachers and families. CYFD estimates this development, combined with the development of the exhibit will cost \$73.5 thousand, with an on-going annual hosting and maintenance cost for the website between \$11 thousand to \$16 thousand.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD believes there is a tremendous opportunity for early learning programs throughout the state (Home Visiting, Child Care, NM PreK, Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, and Kindergarten/Public Schools) to partner and “host” a traveling exhibit. These programs, at both the state and local community levels, could provide supplemental support for these professional development opportunities with their existing funding.

Professional development opportunities and family engagement events would be especially important and welcomed in rural areas of our state. Typically, special opportunities like this are only available in larger metropolitan areas – and often only in Albuquerque. Early educators and families from rural areas are rarely able to take advantage of those opportunities.

Nothing like this currently exists in the state, although similar opportunities are very successful elsewhere such as mobile children’s libraries.

A complementary website would make it possible for early education students, practitioners, and parents to access a wealth of information about children’s learning and developmentally appropriate practice. It may also provide a platform for webinars and other learning opportunities for parents and families as well as early educators from throughout the state – without requiring them to travel.

KK/je