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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/23/15

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Peer-Helping High School Suicide Prevention SB 595

ANALYST Boerner

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$51.0	\$51.0	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 595 appropriates \$51 thousand dollars to the Indian Affairs Department to support peer-helping suicide prevention programs in Native American public high schools in Native northwestern New Mexico communities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$51 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to a peer helpers (PH) program manager, a PH program is currently established in four northwestern high schools: Crownpoint, Cuba, Tse' Yi' Gai and Thoreau, impacting over 1,100

students. Since 2010, membership increased from 23 in 2010 to more than 100 in 2015. PH programs are based on the premise that when young people have problems, they often turn to their friends or trusted adults for help, and that within every school an informal "helping network" exists. The program seeks to identify this informal network and provide training and support to young people and adults who are already serving as helpers. The PH program was first piloted in 2010 in response to concerns from the Indian Health Service, the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico regarding the high rate of youth suicides in several local communities, The Division of Public Health recognized most young people listen to their friends before anyone else, and that a systematic approach was needed to reach young people.

Further, according to a PH program manager, federal grant money that had been available may not continue due to an increased awareness of and demand for limited funding for the program.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PH program training helps ensure peers who want to help have the skills and tools to provide assistance or refer the more challenging situations to an appropriate trained professional. In turn, trained peers gain self-confidence and satisfaction from actively contributing to a safer and more supportive school environment.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Existing Peer Helper Programming in four northwestern high schools may be cut back or eliminated due to insufficient funding.

CEB/bb