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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Urioste DATE TYPED: 02/21/01 HB 635
 SHORT TITLE: 9th Judicial Victim Advocate Program SB _____
 ANALYST: Hayes

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 141.4			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB635 appropriates \$141.4 from the general fund to the “Ninth Judicial District” *Court? or Attorney?* for the purpose of funding the victim advocate program.

Section 1 of the bill authorizes \$35,000.00 to be appropriated from the general fund to the Ninth Judicial District to operate the victim advocate program. Section 2 authorizes a second appropriation of \$106,464.00 be appropriated from the general fund to the Ninth Judicial District for the victim advocate program for employee salary parity. Funds are to be spent in fiscal year 2002.

Significant Issues

The Ninth Judicial District Court, through the AOC, responded to this bill analysis by stating that the court presently has no financial or oversight connection with the victim advocate program. This program is presently operated by the 9th Judicial District Attorney. The District Attorney’s office is obligated by state statute to provide such a program (Section 31-26-9 NMSA 1978). The monies allocated in this bill are better directed to District Attorney’s office in the 9th Judicial District for administration.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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The appropriation of \$141.4 contained in this bill is a 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.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The specific agency to whom this bill is addressed and to whom receives its appropriation is unclear. Whether it is the Ninth Judicial District Court or the District Attorney needs to be clarified.

Effective date is not specified in the bill.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Explain the one hundred thousand dollars needed for salary parity in the victim advocate program and why it is needed.

CMH/sec