

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.

Only the most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC's office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Campos DATE TYPED: 01/27/02 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Guadalupe Magistrate Court Appropriation SB 109

ANALYST: Hayes

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$40.0			Recurring*	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*See Fiscal Implications below.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
LFC files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 109 appropriates \$40.0 from the general fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for the purpose of funding an additional court clerk position and related expenses at the Guadalupe magistrate district.

The effective date of this bill is fiscal year 2003.

Significant Issues

In November 1998, the AOC completed a study to provide the Legislature with methodologies for determining the needs for additional judgeships and court clerks—the Weighted Caseload Study and the Workload Measurement Study. Both are based on caseload per district and are updated annually.

The New Mexico Chief Judges Council reviews all district, metropolitan and magistrate court staffing requests for FY03. Since the Workload Measurement Study did not support the need for such a

position for the Guadalupe magistrate court, the council did not include the position in the judicial branch *Unified Budget* document. (Refer to the attached "Staffing Detail Magistrate Courts" table for current workload measurement results.) In summary, this court clerk position is not supported by the *Unified Budget*.

According to the AOC, the Guadalupe County magistrate courts in Santa Rosa and Vaughn currently have 2.5 clerks. The Weighted Caseload Study shows that these courts had 1,564 new case filings from 6/01/00 - 5/31/01 with a need of 1.8 clerks for this level of caseload. Therefore, the Guadalupe magistrate courts actually exceeds the study recommendation by .8 clerks.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Of the \$40.0 appropriation contained in this bill, \$33.0 is a recurring expense to the general fund and \$7.0 is non-recurring. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Since the Workload Measurement Study does not indicate a need for an additional court clerk in the Guadalupe magistrate district, why is the court requesting such a position?

CMH/njw:ar