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 for other purposes.

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 in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Pin	nto	DATE TYPED:	02/10/03	HB	
SHORT TITLE	E: _	Tohatchi Youth Deve	elopment Programs		SB	423
		ANAL			YST:	Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation	on Contained	Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$42.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From Office of Indian Affairs

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 423 appropriates \$42,000 from the General Fund to the Office of Indian Affairs for youth development programs including a youth leadership project at the Tohatchi Chapter in Tohatchi.

Significant Issues

The Office of Indian Affairs reports that Indian nation youth are in a crisis mode. They face many challenges and need programs and mentors that can support them during their formative years when the choices they make impact them for the rest of their lives. The youth need programs that help them stay in school, assist with preventing pregnancy and substance abuse, guide them in their choices so that they look forward to a bright future, instead of wasting their potential. These programs must be tailored to their specific needs. This is critical in preventing waste of the great talents and abilities of the next generation.

Gangs, juvenile delinquency, high drop-out rates, driving while intoxicated, theft, violent crime, teen pregnancy, HIV-AIDS, sexually-transmitted diseases and substance abuse are some of the issues that affect Indian youth on reservation lands. Not only urban Indian youth are affected but reservation and rural Indian youth are just as susceptible.

Senate Bill 423 -- Page 2

A lack of programs that target youth for recreation, mentoring, educating, and keeping them out of trouble and drug and alcohol-free are lacking. This funding would create support and awareness of their needs and address critical issues facing our young people today. A youth leadership program would create strong peer mentors and support the leaders of tomorrow.

There is disproportionate representation of Indian youth in juvenile corrections centers. Early intervention and good programming that assist with the many problems facing today's youth, and programs targeted to Indian youth and that are culturally-based, are seen to deter the end that we do not wish for any of our young—incarceration and worse—an early and violent death.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$42.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2004 shall revert to the General Fund.

MW/yr