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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos DATE TYPED 1/27/04 HB 35

SHORT TITLE 9th District Domestic Violence Hearing Staff SB _____

ANALYST Koplik

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$15.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 35 appropriates \$15 thousand from the general fund to the Ninth Judicial District Court for the purpose of supplementing the expenditures for a contractual domestic violence hearing officer and file/intake clerk.

Significant Issues

The Administrative Office of the Courts reports that the general fund appropriation falls short of the district's base request, and that additional funding is needed due to the expanding caseload of the domestic violence hearing officer. The sometimes overwhelming pressures and conflicts facing young military couples residing at Cannon Air Force Base means that Clovis has a high domestic violence rate. Indeed, it may have the highest rate of divorce in New Mexico. Furthermore, the Ninth Judicial District has two judges, while the judiciary's weighted caseload study has concluded that it needs three. This funding will help the district manage its high case volume. The Ninth Judicial District requested an equivalent supplemental appropriation for FY 2004. Its fiscal practices serve as a model for all district courts in the state.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2005 shall revert to the general fund.

RLG/yr:lg