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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Taylor, JP DATE TYPED 2/3/04 HB 373

SHORT TITLE Caregiver Crisis Hotline SB _____

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

| Appropriation Contained | | Estimated Additional Impact | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| FY04 | FY05 | FY04 | FY05 | | |
| | \$125.0 | | | Recurring | General Fund |
| | | | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging & LTC Dept (ALTCD)

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 373 appropriates \$125,000 from the General Fund to the State Agency on Aging for the purpose of developing a caregiver crisis hotline.

Significant Issues

New Mexico has one of the fastest growing aging populations in the country, including many frail and chronically ill elders. The bulk of home and community based long-term care is provided by family members, including a growing number of grandparents caring for grandchildren. Care-giving is frequently emotionally draining and physically demanding.

If the bill is passed, CYFD could potentially experience an increase in reports of alleged adult abuse, neglect and/or exploitation. This hotline may also increase requests for Adult Day Care, Home Care and Attendant Care services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$125.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 05 shall revert to the General Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation would provide the Aging & Long-Term Care Dept. with funding to implement and administer a statewide caregiver hotline. The Governor has made the development and implementation of a caregiver hotline one of his priorities for constituents of the Aging & Long-Term Care Dept.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The purpose and scope of the hotline is not specified within the bill. It is unclear if the hotline is intended to assist caregivers of medically fragile children and young disabled adults.

In 2003, legislation elevated the State Agency on Aging to a cabinet level Department and changed the name to the "Aging and Long Term Care Department". HB 34, HB 260 and SB141 introduced in the 46th legislative session (2004), are proposing the State Agency on Aging be named the "Aging and Long-Term Services Department".

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Human Services Department currently administers an existing statewide, toll-free program called "LTC Link" or "New Mexico Long Term Care Connection" that could be expanded to include a crisis hotline. In addition to receiving telephone calls, the program receives e-mails through their website. Persons may contact the program to request assistance in locating long term care services. The program is associated with EverCare, a national organization with expertise in the field of long term care. The current contract for this program limited to providing information regarding services for adults with disabilities and the elderly, and the service operates on weekdays from 8 AM to 5 PM. The program does have the infrastructure and capability to support a crisis hotline. LTC Link has been identified for transfer from Human Services Department to the Aging and Long-Term Care Department in HB 34, HB 260 and SB141 introduced in the 46th legislative session.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

How is the Aging and Long Term Care Department Planning to administer this hotline (in house or contract)?

Will contracting with LTC Link save administrative costs since they have the infrastructure in place?

BD/yr