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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Garcia DATE TYPED 01/27/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Services SB 26

ANALYST Maloy

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$72.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 15.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Children, Youth and Families Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 26 appropriates \$72 thousand from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families for the purpose of providing services to grandparents raising grandchildren in Dona Ana County.

The services to be provided shall include:

1. the opportunity to meet with a professional to aid in developing an action plan to address the child's and grandparents' needs;
2. support in establishing the proper legal relationships;
3. support in obtaining financial assistance when eligible;
4. access to mental and physical health services; and
5. support in obtaining after-school care, transportation and tutoring.

“Grandparent caregiver” is defined as a grandparent or great-grandparent who lives in the same household and is the primary caregiver for one or more of their own grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

Significant Issues

With Senate Bill 26, grandparent caregivers in Dona Ana County will receive a benefit that grandparent caregivers throughout the entire state want and need.

According to CYFD,

1. The bill does not establish eligibility criteria for a grandparent caregiver in Dona Ana County.
2. CYFD currently provides services to families and children resulting from a report of abuse or neglect. Familial relationships including grandparents are explored for possible out-of-home placement for children in CYFD custody. A grandparent will be considered for placement if they can meet the needs of the child. In these situations, CYFD currently provides several of the support services to the grandparent caregivers outlined in the bill.
3. CYFD provides child care assistance to income eligible grandparents who have custody or guardianship of their grandchildren. Grandparents are exempt from co-payments for child care assistance under current child care assistance regulations. Child care assistance may be used for after-school child care.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$72,000 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 26 will result in additional administrative costs to the agency, both in staff and materials.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What would the cost be for supporting such services throughout the state?

SJM/prr