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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ezzell DATE TYPED 3/7/2005 HB 972

SHORT TITLE Autism Services and Training SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Dunbar

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$10.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HJM162; SB124; HB625; HJM32

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
 Human Services Department  
 Department of Health  
 NM Public Education Department (NMPED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 972 appropriates \$10,000 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) for community-based services and family training for children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Dexter, NM.

#### Significant Issues

Both nationally and in New Mexico there has been a significant growth in the number of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). According to a study by the University of Missouri-Columbia (Baker, D. L., 2004, March 16. Public Policy and the Shaping of Disability: Incidence Growth in Educational Autism) the average growth rate nationwide for ASD between 1995 and 2002 has been 307%, compared with just 15% for all other disabilities.

According to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) studies done in Europe and Asia, since 1985 they have found that as many as 6 of every 1,000 children have ASD. CDC studies in the United States have shown a prevalence of between 3-6 per 1,000 children. Given these statistics it is estimated that there may be approximately 7,200 to 10,800 children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders in New Mexico, with an estimated 540 - 810 children under the age of five.

The Public Education Department and the Department of Health are the primary agencies charged with providing community-based services to children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The bill does not specify that Dexter, NM, has an extraordinary need for this type of service. Human Services Department, through the Medicaid program, covers medically necessary services for this population, but does not cover “social interactions”, educational and other non-medical needs of the population. This bill would appear to address those needs for one geographic area.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$10 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

Training for staff and families is a strong need in New Mexico, reflected in SB124, which calls for the development of a statewide system of training and professional development for educators serving this population. HJM162 calls for a study of the feasibility of establishing a registry for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and a single point of contact for autism evaluations, helping to identify the extent of occurrence in the state; this would enable better planning to service this population.

The bill also relates to:

- HB 625, which appropriates funds to University of New Mexico for diagnostic evaluations of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and
- HJM32, which calls for a study to determine the number of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder in New Mexico and how to deliver the necessary services to these individuals.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Department of Health promotes full community integration for persons with developmental disabilities, such as Autism Spectrum Disorders. DOH also understands the importance of education and training for families and caregivers, as promoted in HB 972.

Statewide services exist to address the needs of children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, for example: infants and toddlers with developmental delays and their families can receive comprehensive early intervention services and social support through the DOH Family In-

fant Toddler Program and children ages 3-21 are eligible for public school services. In addition, based on availability of funding, they may also have access to Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver services, DD State General Funded (SCF) Respite and DD SGF Self Directed Services. Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders are eligible for DD SGF Vocational and Residential services as well as the array of DOH services listed above for children.

The number of children diagnosed with autism, who are covered by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, has increased 500% over the last 10 years, according to a recent report released by the Government Accountability Office. They suggest this rise is due to better diagnoses, a broader range of conditions being categorized as autism and a higher incidence of autism in the general population.

**WD/njw**