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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino DATE TYPED 3/8/2005 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Children's Cabinet Act SB 435/aSPAC/aSFL # 1

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	See Narrative				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

Human Services Department (HSD)

NM Public Education Department (NMPED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFL# 1 Amendment

The Senate Floor amendment # 1 in the Power, Duties and Goals section changes the ages of children from those less than 25 years of age to less than 21 years of age. The children's cabinet will conduct a study and make recommendations for a design of coordinated system to maximize outcomes for these children.

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment of Senate Bill 435 inserts language that includes the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Legislative Education and Study Committee in the twice a year meetings coordinated by the children's cabinet with designated NM citizens and public officials.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 435 proposes to establish the Children's Cabinet, permanently and administratively attached to the Office of the Governor. The Children's Cabinet would meet at least six times each year. The New Mexico Children's Cabinet would be comprised of the Governor, the Lt. Governor and Agency Heads of the following Departments: Children, Youth and Families, Corrections, Human Services, Labor, Health, Finance and Administration, Economic Development, Public Safety, and Aging and Long Term Services, and the Office of Indian Affairs, Public Education Department.

The Cabinet will make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature by September 1 of each year. These recommendations will include a child and youth report card identifying the status and well-being of children and youth and a child and youth policy and inventory budget identifying state programs and initiatives that affect the well-being of children and youth.

Significant Issues

New Mexico has had a Children's Cabinet in operation for 2 years. This Cabinet is currently authorized by Executive Order 2003-005. The mandate of the current cabinet was to prepare draft legislation for introduction in the January 2005 legislative session. Activities also included: helping achieve outcomes for children & families, advising the Governor and Legislature on policy matters; coordinating /integrating /aligning services; developing a budget collaboratively for children and youth; public outreach and education; and promoting state and local partnerships for children and families.

Governors' Children's Cabinets are collaborative governance structures that seek to promote coordination across state agencies and improve the well-being of children and families. A strong and effective Children's Cabinet can improve coordination and efficiency across state departments and local levels of government, mobilize resources around the governor's priorities for children and strengthen partnerships with the non-profit and private sectors. At least 16 states have a Children's Cabinet.

The express goals of the Cabinet are:

- all children and youth will be physically and mentally healthy;
- all children and youth will be safe and supported in their families and communities;
- all children and youth will be ready for and successful in school, able to achieve their full potential;
- all children and youth will be able to transition successfully to meaningful and purposeful adulthood and employment; and
- all children will be valued contributors and active participants in their communities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are identified recurring resources in the above noted agencies to support the Children's Cabinet.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The PED, CYFD, HSD and DOH strongly support this legislation. The work of the New Mexico

Children's Cabinet could be the most effective way to align systems and improve state services.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB 435 Section 2.C line 18 states, "Each year the Children's Cabinet shall select the governor or lieutenant governor to be the chairperson." It may be advisable to clarify how this process will be determined.

SB 435 Section 2.B line 16 includes the Secretary of Indian Affairs. However, in the public group referenced in Section 3.C lines 13-21, native representation is not included. Tribal governments could be important resources for creation of policies affecting the well being of native children.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Though features vary from state to state, Children's Cabinets typically involve senior state officials, including cabinet executives from a range of state agencies (i.e., health, mental health, education, child care, income supports, child and family services, youth development, labor, and juvenile justice services.) Many Children's Cabinets also include representatives of key stakeholders from the private sector. A Children's Cabinet can develop and implement a shared vision across agencies for improving child and family outcomes, improve the state's economy and prospects for competition in the global marketplace by investing in the education and skills of children, the state's future workforce, fostering public awareness of major children's issues, engaging new partners in public efforts to serve children and their families, and building a long-term commitment to children's issues in the state. (Source: National Governors Alliance Center for Best Practices).

The above note departments agree that:

- Tracking New Mexico indicators concerning child and youth well being through the child and youth report card could provide schools, parents, communities and agencies with information and data critical to improving services and opportunities for New Mexico's children and families.
- The child and youth report card and a child and youth policy and inventory budget could provide policymakers with comprehensive high-quality data to support public policy decisions that will have a positive long-term impact on the lives of children (KIDS COUNT, Annie e. Casey Foundation).
- The comprehensive membership of the Secretaries and the public group, including parents, children, youth, educators, public officials and representatives of faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, philanthropic organizations, public schools, colleges and universities, health care providers, nonprofit organizations, youth service providers and political subdivisions, could serve to ensure that appropriate services are designed, implemented and coordinated to maximize outcomes among children and youth under age 25, particularly those in disadvantaged situations.
- The child and youth policy and inventory budget could identify state programs and initiatives that affect the well-being of children and youth, including proposed budget allocations toward outcome areas based on age, ethnicity and special target populations as de-

terminated by the Children's Cabinet. This report could provide objective evidence and data to enhance results and performance accountability, decision making and budgeting.

BD/sb:yr