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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Garcia DATE TYPED 3/7/2005 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Better Publicize Safe Haven for Infants Act SB SJM 63

ANALYST Dunbar

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			Minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

NM Public Education Department (NMPED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

SJM 63 requests that the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the Public Education Department (PED) work together to improve the publicity about the Safe Haven Infants Act and collaborate with the statewide associations of primary care physicians, hospitals, health care clinics and family planning organizations to disseminate materials developed.

#### Significant Issues

- The state’s Safe Haven for Infants Act (2001) allows a person to leave a child who is no older than 90 days at a hospital without fear of prosecution on child abandonment charges.
- The first “safe haven law” was passed in Texas in 1999 after a number of highly publicized cases of parents abandoning infants. Nationwide publicity of these and similar events escalated and policy-makers across the nation began to implement legislation similar to the law enacted in Texas. Since that time, 40 other states have passed legislation intended to prevent the abandonment of children by their parents ([www.babysafela.org](http://www.babysafela.org)).

## **Senate Joint Memorial 63 Page 2**

- Publicizing the Safe Haven Act in Spanish and in English at hospitals, health care clinics and family planning organizations could result in both the saving newborn lives and provide critical newborn care to infants that are abandoned.

Child abandonment is a public health issue. The Department of Health (DOH) is not named as an agency involved in the publicizing and disseminating of information related to the Safe Haven Infant Act.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

If SJM 63 were passed and PED is identified as an agency to participate in this memorial, it is estimated that it would take approximately 40 hrs of time for an Education Administrator @ \$22.394 to assist in the memorial and publicizing the act for a total estimate of \$1.2 thousand dollars including benefits.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

Page 2, line 1: STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, the children, youth and families...

**BD/lg**