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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez DATE TYPED 2/10/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Domestic Abuse Shelters and Child Services SB 325

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
\$3,000.0				Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 497
Relates to HB 334; HB 343; HB 440

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
Department of Health (DOH)
Health Policy Commission (HPC)
Department of Public Defender (DPD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 325 appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) for expenditure in FY 05 and FY06 to contract with a statewide domestic violence coalition to provide needed improvements to shelters and services for children who are victims of domestic violence. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 would revert to the General Fund.

SB 325 contains an emergency clause.

Significant Issues

This appropriation is directed to a domestic violence coalition through CYFD. The coalition would be responsible for establishing contracts with individual service providers statewide.

CYFD currently allocates funding and provides contract monitoring to domestic violence programs statewide. This bill shifts this responsibility to a single coalition for the contained appropriation. CYFD will still be required to conduct a competitive bid for the \$3,000,000 and monitor the contract with the coalition awarded the bid. As per the procurement code, any contract over twenty thousand must be let through the competitive procurement process. Allocating funds in this manner may not make funding available to domestic violence programs that are not members of the organization or coalition that secures the contract.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This bill would allow for increased program and service capacity statewide allowing a greater number of victims of domestic violence to be served.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3 million 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.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicates HB 497

Relates to:

- HB 334 which would designate two million dollars to CYFD to improve domestic violence programs and centers beginning in FY 06 with no prescribed recipient of the funding;
- HB 343 which proposes to appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) to support a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Shiprock, including providing increased staffing;
- HB 440 which would enact a new section of the Family Violence Protection Act to require medical personnel to document domestic abuse of a person, to provide information and referral to services, and treat all related communications and information as confidential.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

CYFD suggests allocating the funding to department and have it distributed through the normal procurement process, available to all domestic violence providers in the state.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Domestic violence (including but not limited to intimate partner violence) is a serious public health problem in New Mexico. Incidents of domestic violence often go unreported to law enforcement due to failure of family, friends or neighbors to report.

Data available from the “Incidence and Nature of Domestic Violence in New Mexico: An Analysis of 2001-2003 Data from the New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository” indicates that in 2003 the incidence of Domestic Violence almost doubled the amount of incidents recorded in 2002.

New Mexico Interpersonal Data Central Repository also reports that 7,985 survivors sought help from domestic violence service provider agencies in 2003. This represents a 9% increase in the last 3 years. Services provided by domestic violence programs include emergency shelter, food, clothing, crisis call response, counseling, treatment, orders of protection and support groups. More children than ever (5,757) received services from provider agencies in 2003, representing a 37% increase in the last three years.

The Domestic Violence Trend Analysis created by the New Mexico Interpersonal Data Central Repository, states that 7,985 survivors sought help from domestic violence service provider agencies in 2003. This represents a 9% increase in the last 3 years. Just over half (55%) of these survivors said they reported the incident to law enforcement.

Nationally, battered mothers indicated that their children witnessed the abuse 87% of the time. The report in New Mexico stated 3,381 children were present at the scene of the domestic violence cases reported by law enforcement, and almost three-quarters (71%) of children who witnessed domestic violence incidents were not yet adolescents (12 years and under). Children whose parents abuse each other are more likely to eventually become victims and/or perpetrators of abuse. Childhood exposure to domestic violence is associated with difficulties with behavior, emotional health, schoolwork and delinquency. Effects on such childhood exposures last into adulthood and include alcoholism, drug abuse, mental health problems, smoking and general poor health.

ALTERNATIVES

CYFD suggests allocating the funding to department and have it distributed through the normal procurement process, available to all domestic violence providers in the state. This funding stream may result in duplication of services.

BD/lg