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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 02/09/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Native American Violence Shelters SB 759

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$300.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 618
 Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Indian Affairs Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 759 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of providing domestic violence shelter services for native American women and children in Albuquerque.

Significant Issues

The Indian Affairs Department reports:

Currently, there is a great need for off reservation domestic violence shelters for Indian women and children in New Mexico. Albuquerque has an American Indian population of over 40,000, yet there are few programs and services available to meet the needs of Indian women and children.

The few existing domestic violence shelters in Albuquerque do not always provide culturally sensitive services to American Indians. There is only one Indian staffed and culturally competent provider which provides counseling, support group meetings, children's groups, court and legal advocacy, and other services to American Indians.

There is clearly a need for American Indian domestic violence shelters and services when crime victimization rates in the American Indian community are significantly higher than in the general U.S. population. As a result of these high rates of violence, American Indian women are at high risk of homicide, including domestic violence. (College of Emergency Physicians Report in 1995). Homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for American Indian women and over 75% were killed by a family member or acquaintance (Homicide and Suicide Among Native American 1979-1992.).

A 1999 study by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics reports:

- The frequency of battering in Indian Country is believed to be much higher than the national norm. American Indians, in general, experience per capita rates of violence that are more than twice those of the resident population.
- American Indian women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States, nearly 50% higher than that reported by black males.
- American Indian women stand a high risk of losing their children in instances of physical and sexual abuse.
- Three-fourths of American Indian women have experienced some type of sexual assault in their lives.
- Abuses against American Indians are committed by persons not of the same race—a substantially higher rate of interracial violence than experienced by white or black victims. 75% of the intimate victimizations and 25% of the family victimizations involved an offender of a different race.
- American Indian victims of intimate and family violence are more likely than others to be injured and need hospital care.
- The life expectancy of American Indian women in the U.S. is 47 years.
- 47% of all women will be raped in their lifetime.
- 50% of all women will be battered by their spouse/partner.
- 40% of women in prison for felonies are there because they killed an abusive partner/spouse.
- Women of color are 64% of the female prison population and serve longer sentences for the same crime as do white women or men of color.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Performance measures should be included to help assess the success of the program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand 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.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department continues.

SB 759 is directing that the appropriation be made to the Indian Affairs Department. Efforts are being made in the Executive Branch to coordinate all domestic violence and sexual assault service funds through the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). CYFD has a domestic violence and sexual assault division that is better equipped to administer, monitor, provide technical assistance and to establish and oversee appropriate policies for domestic violence services. Appropriating the funds to CYFD will better serve the intent of SB 759.

MW/sb:njw