

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos DATE TYPED 1/24/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Regional Senior Companion Programs SB 29

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$50.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long Term Services Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 29 appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund to the Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD) to increase the allocation for senior companion services to Guadalupe and Quay counties under the Senior Companion Program (SCP).

Significant Issues

The appropriation under SB 29 would allow for a full time office and full time program coordinator in Tuumcari as opposed to the existing part time office and part time coordinator, and allow for an increase in services under the SCP in both Guadalupe and Quay counties.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The current part time office and part time coordinator in Tuumcari also coordinate the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) in addition to the SCP.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in SB 29 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation is not included in the Aging Network package, however, the funding would go to the ALTSD to contract with Las Vegas Medical Center through the Department of Health (DOH).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Senior Companion Programs, part of the USA Freedom Corps, is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Services, the federal agency that also oversees AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

This same bill was introduced in last year's session as SB 494 where it passed, but was vetoed.

The appropriation would be from the ALTSD to the DOH and would have to be dispersed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Senior Companion Program provides a way for those 60 and over, whose incomes are limited, to provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as grocery shopping and bill paying. Senior Companions spend 20 hours a week helping an average of two to four adult clients live independently in their own homes. Senior companions receive monthly training, provide relief to caregivers, and alert doctors and family members to potential problems. One must meet income eligibility requirements to serve as a senior companion, and will receive a modest, tax free stipend to offset the cost of volunteering.

The Foster Grandparent Program provides a way for those 60 and over whose incomes are limited to serve as extended family members to children and youth with exceptional needs. Foster Grandparents serve 20 hours a week in schools, hospitals, correctional institutions, daycare facilities, and Head Start centers. They help children who have been abused or neglected, mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers, and care for premature infants or children with physical disabilities.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

Without this appropriation, the SCP would have to continue with a part time office and part time coordinator and the currently enrolled senior companions.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

How many individuals are currently being served under the SCP and FGP, and how many more are expected to be under this appropriation?

What is the amount of the current modest, tax-free stipend senior companions and foster grandparents receive under each program?

AHO/lg:yr