

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

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/06
 LAST UPDATED 2/2/06 HB 489

SPONSOR Picraux

SHORT TITLE Corrections Dept. Family Visitation Programs SB _____

ANALYST Peery

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 273

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
 New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 489 appropriates \$75.0 from the general fund to Corrections Department for the purpose of family visitation and transportation programs at the women's correctional facility at Grants and Camino Nuevo facility in Albuquerque, and \$250.0 from the general fund to Corrections Department for the purpose of operating funds for family visitation centers at the women's correctional facility at Grants and Camino Nuevo facility in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriations of \$75.0 and \$250.0 contained in this bill are recurring expenses to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMCD states that mothers are often the primary caregiver for children, and it is in the best interests of those children that they maintain contact with their mothers during the mothers' incarceration. NMCD reports children of incarcerated women are unable to visit their mothers without the aid of an adult who is willing to assume the responsibility of transporting the children. NMCD states the proposed legislation funds a program that facilitates visits between children and their incarcerated mothers.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The proposed legislation is a duplication of Senate Bill 273.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMCD reports that incarcerated women who have a reliable mechanism for maintaining contact with their children will experience less anxiety about their children and will not otherwise express their frustration on correctional staff.

The Peanut Butter and Jelly program has estimated that in New Mexico there are nearly 7,300 minor children with a parent in state prison. The Peanut Butter and Jelly program reports that children of inmates are seven times more likely to become involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems than other children.

Corrections Corporation of America reported in April 2004 that there were 294 women incarcerated at the New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility with children under the age of 18 years old.

RLP/nt:mt:yr