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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/06

SPONSOR Park LAST UPDATED _____ HM 54

SHORT TITLE Camino Nuevo Community Advisory Committee SB _____

ANALYST Peery

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
NA	NA	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

No Responses Received From

Commission on the Status of Women
Labor Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 54 requests the New Mexico Corrections Department create a Camino Nuevo Community Advisory Committee to study strategies to provide gender-specific treatment to women while at the Camino Nuevo correctional facility and to provide gender-specific transition and reintegration services to women upon their release from the Camino Nuevo correctional facility. The proposed Senate Joint Memorial requests the Corrections Department appoint to the committee two Corrections Department representatives, two representatives from the entity operating the Camino Nuevo correctional facility, one representative from the New Mexico Women's Justice Project, one representative from the Labor Department, one clinical psychologist or licensed professional counselor, one licensed social worker, two representatives from community providers with relevant experience related to gender-specific treatment, one representative from the Commission on the Status of Women and three additional members of the committee selected by a majority of the other members for the committee. Also, the proposed

Senate Joint Memorial requests the Corrections Department to report the committee's findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee by December 1, 2006.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial calls for the New Mexico Corrections Department to create a Camino Nuevo Community Advisory Committee; however, there is no appropriation to cover the cost of travel for committee members to attend meetings.

NMCD states that if the committee's findings lead to extensive changes to treatment, transition services and/or reintegration services provided to the women who are discharged from Camino Nuevo, this may increase the costs to the department to provide or have provided these services while these women are on probation or parole.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH states the proposed legislation seeks to address the high rate of recidivism for women released from New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility. DOH states by addressing and improving transition and reintegration treatment services to women, the Camino Nuevo facility will not only be assisting these women, but will be helping to alleviate the social and economic burden that high recidivism costs.

DOH states female offenders have distinct treatment needs and post-release characteristics, which if not addressed appropriately will increase the likelihood of recidivism. DOH reports studies have shown that when women are given appropriate tools and empowered to take charge of their lives, they are more likely to become better citizens, parents and employees and are less likely to fall back into old criminal patterns.

NMCD reports the department is already seeking assistance from the National Institute of Corrections to develop gender-specific treatment and services for the women incarcerated in and released from the Camino Nuevo facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Corrections Department would be in charge of administration of the proposed Camino Nuevo Community Advisory Committee. Staff, minimal office supplies and meeting space would need to be provided by the Corrections Department.

NMCD reports the proposed memorial negatively impacts the department administratively since it will require several employees to work to set up the advisory committee and to serve on the advisory committee.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The proposed memorial is a duplicate of Senate Joint Memorial 62.

RLP/mt