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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-31-06

SPONSOR Altamirano LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Statewide Youth Mentoring Programs SB 175

ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$1,500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB368, HB679, and HB744 that would provide funds for regional or local mentoring programs rather than statewide as in SB175.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 175 appropriates \$1.5 million from the general fund to the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) in FY07 for youth mentoring programs statewide through a program that matches at-risk children with carefully screened mentors.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.5 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 would revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health indicated that a connection to a caring adult other than a parent has been shown to be a strong protective factor for alcohol and drug use, violence, sexual behaviors, unhealthy dietary patterns and inadequate physical activity. Mentoring programs are proven effective ways to create and maintain these connections to promote positive youth development.

According to the Department of Finance and Administration, approximately 95 percent of the children served in mentoring programs come from single-parent families and over 90 percent are from low-income families. During the last three years, the number of children matched increased over 55 percent from 1,997 to 3,100.

The Public Education Department offered the following benefits from mentoring programs:

- Research shows that “adult role models,” “supportive relationship with three or more other adults” and “adults in community valuing youth” as essential to youths’ health and well-being.
- Researchers working from within a risk and resilience framework have repeatedly called attention to the protective influence of supportive relationships with adults, highlighted the importance of “one good relationship,” and discussed the critical importance of significant adults in promoting the healthy development of highly stressed youths.
- Mentoring relationships can positively influence a range of outcomes, including improvements in peer and parental relationships, academic achievement and self-concept, as well as lower recidivism rates among juvenile delinquents and reduced substance abuse.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED noted SB175 may positively impact the academic achievement of youths participating in the program by improving attendance, resulting in improved reading and math scores and increasing the graduation rate of students in New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The grant will be administered through DFA which already has the staff and the knowledge to easily fund and monitor this project.

DH/yr