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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/06

SPONSOR Ryan LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Corrections Dept. Family Visitation Programs SB 273

ANALYST Peery

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 273 appropriates \$75.0 from the general fund to Corrections Department for the purpose of family visitation and transportation programs at the Grants and Camino Nuevo facilities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance 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.

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