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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/07

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED _____ HB 527

SHORT TITLE Gender-Specific Correctional Training Program SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
NA	\$50.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From
 Commission on the Status of Women
 Department of Health (DOH)
 New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)
 Public Defender Department (PDD)
 New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 527 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the New Mexico Sentencing Commission to study gender-specific probation and parole models, to survey existing probationer and parolees on the effectiveness of current probation and parole programs and on their ability to re-enter society, to share results of the survey with the Courts, Corrections and Justice Subcommittee, and to make recommendations on implementing best practices in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

NMSC states the commission believes the appropriated amount in the proposed legislation is sufficient to properly conduct and publish the study.

NMCD notes there is no appropriation in the bill for the department to cover any increased costs associated with ultimately providing gender-based programs to probationers and parolees. NMCD states it is difficult to predict whether or not gender-based programming will be more or less expensive than current probation and parole programming.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSC report over the past several years the NM Corrections Department has reported an increase in its female population. The rate of females incarcerations increased by approximately 8 percent in 2005 while the male population increased by less than half that rate. In 2005, the overall growth of offenders under community supervision increased by 10 percent, while the number of female probationers and parolees increased by 14 percent.

DOH reports gender-specific programming refers to services developed and/or targeted to either males or females. DOH states in the 1990s, a trend to develop programs for girls gained momentum as girls accounted for an increasing proportion of the youths entering the juvenile justice system and because most juvenile justice programs were developed to serve boys.

NMCD notes that one of the duties of Value Options is to evaluate each provider's system to help determine the best practices for gender-specific programming.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMSC states the gender-specific probation and parole models study would comprise of one of 11 research projects towards meeting the commission's performance measure target.

NMCD states that gender-specific programming may ultimately lead to better programming for female offenders. This could lower recidivism rates as well as the number of probation/parole violations committed by the female offenders receiving gender-specific programming. NMCD reports the department is hopeful that the recommendations that the NM Sentencing Commission makes to the Legislature about gender-specific programming will be seriously considered.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSC states the commission believes it can complete the study in a timely fashion provided it receives the funding in the proposed legislation. NMSC reports the commission will have to limit its scope of work to the funding level.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

DOH notes the proposed legislation has a relationship to House Bill 526, which appropriates \$50,000 to the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women to develop best practices and curriculum and training for personnel on gender-specific programs for girls and women in public and private correctional facilities.

RPG/sb