

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 2/6/07

SPONSOR Trujillo LAST UPDATED 2/10/07 HB 815

SHORT TITLE Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program SB _____

ANALYST C.Sanchez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$64.0		General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates,
SB 605

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Bernalillo Metropolitan Court (BMC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 815 appropriates \$64,000 from the general fund to the administrative office of the courts for FY08 to fund the court-appointed special advocates programs statewide. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 08 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The LFC recommendation currently includes \$139,974 (\$31,974 is the three percent increase to the Special Court Services program, and \$108,000 is additional LFC money).

The additional \$64,000 from HB 815 would bring the total amount of new general fund for CASA to \$203,974. All of New Mexico's programs would benefit (except the Second Judicial District Court, where the CASA program is a unit of the Children's Court budget).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The LFC recommendation currently includes \$139,974 for the Special Court Services Program.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The courts are participating in performance-based budgeting. It is unknown if enactment of this bill would impact performance measures as they relate to judicial budgeting.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB 815 would complete the funding of the Network's original request for CASA. Statewide, CASA requested \$203,976 in new general fund for FY08. That appropriation would bring all 16 programs to their proper funding step, as well as increase the steps for the first time in ten years.

DUPLICATES

SB 605

ALTERNATIVES

Adopt LFC recommendation

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

CS/nt