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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/28/07

SPONSOR Sandoval LAST UPDATED _____ HB HM 31

SHORT TITLE Medicaid Client Translation Services SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The Human Services Department is directed to study ways to attract federal dollars for a program that provides interpreters for Medicaid and children's health insurance programs. After the study the department is to apply for federal funds for the interpreter service plan it endorses. HSD is to then report to the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Welfare Reform Oversight Committee on its proposal to the federal government for funds for a state interpreter program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Human Services Department reports the following facts on Medicaid interpreter services.

Recipients in Managed Care

For Medicaid recipients in SALUD! managed care, which is the majority of Medicaid recipients, the Medical Assistance Division (MAD) requires that the managed care organizations provide interpretive services for all populations that constitute more than 5 percent of their general populations. However, each managed care organization has expanded the capability by providing interpretive services on a much broader scale by including such languages as Navajo, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Russian, oriental languages, mid-eastern languages, American Sign Language, and others.

Presbyterian Health Plan and Lovelace Community Health Plan offer translation services for multiple languages 24/7 by phone. Molina Health Care provides offers translation services during regular business hours.

Providers Receiving Federal Funds

Providers who receive federal funds, which include many hospitals, non-profit clinics, and health centers, have the primary responsibility of providing interpreter services under the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Medical Assistance Division Initiative

In instances where translation services are not already provided, MAD is exploring possible ways to provide such services. The state already contracts for translation services similar to those provided through the managed care organizations. These lines are used when needed during the recipient eligibility determination process. MAD is researching the possibility of building on this service to include health care encounters between providers and recipients. The costs of this expense are not known. However, in studying other states, it was determined that the use of language lines is the most economical solution.

MW/nt