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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/24/08

SPONSOR Carraro LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Homeless Student Emergency Housing SB 372

ANALYST Escudero

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates To: HB242, HB367, HB384, SB 159, SB 236, and SB302.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)  
 Public Education Department (PED)  
 Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 372 appropriates \$\$600.0 from the general fund to the local government division of the department of finance and administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 to provide emergency housing for homeless middle school and high school students.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This appropriation of \$600.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

DFA is the fiscal agent for SB 372. There is no fiscal responsibility for the Public Education Department (PED).

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, emergency housing and transitional living services offer a home setting for youth to facilitate their shift from dependence on care by others to caring for themselves. Youth needing emergency housing, for any reason, are at a crossroads during a vulnerable stage in life, going from youth to young adult. They have limited housing resources, few funds and insufficient self-care skills. Within settings designed for safe co-ed living, staff oversees the living environment, provides training and facilitates access to community resources and skill development (Hogares Inc., 2008).

- Homeless youth are individuals under the age of 18 who lack parental, foster or institutional care. These young people are sometimes referred to as "unaccompanied" youth. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the US Department of Justice in 2002 estimated 1,682,900 homeless and runaway youth. This number is equally divided among males and females, and the majority of them are between the ages of 15 and 17. Causes of homelessness among youth fall into three inter-related categories: family problems, economic problems and residential instability (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007).
- Homeless youth face many challenges on the streets. Few homeless youth are housed in emergency shelters as a result of lack of shelter beds for youth, shelter admission policies and a preference for greater autonomy. Because of their age, homeless youth have few legal means by which they can earn enough money to meet basic needs.
- Many homeless adolescents find that exchanging sex for food, clothing and shelter is their only chance of survival on the streets. In turn, homeless youth are at a greater risk of contracting AIDS or HIV-related illnesses.
- Homeless adolescents often suffer from severe anxiety and depression, poor health and nutrition and low self-esteem. Homeless youth face difficulties attending school because of legal guardianship requirements, residency requirements, improper records and lack of transportation. As a result, homeless youth face severe challenges in obtaining an education and supporting themselves emotionally and financially (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007).

Homeless youth benefit from programs that meet immediate needs first and then help them address other aspects of their lives. Programs that minimize institutional demands and offer a range of services have had success in helping homeless youth regain stability (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007). Quality emergency housing can support youth by addressing and supporting youth development in several areas:

- Skill development
- Effective communication
- Awareness and use of community resources
- Educational goals
- Job-seeking skills
- Money management skills
- Transportation
- Involvement in structured daily living
- Growing confidence and self-respect.

In the 2006-07 Data Collection Report to the Federal government, PED sited serving 5,001 homeless children and youth through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program. The

PED has identified the following barriers to the education of New Mexico homeless children and youth: 1) school selection, 2) transportation, 3) school records, 4) immunization/medical records and 5) lack of affordable housing (Public Education Department, 2007).

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

According to PED, in order to ensure New Mexico’s homeless children and youth have access to education and other services needed to meet the state’s academic standards, barriers must be lifted to school selection, transportation, school records, immunizations or other medical records, affordable housing, public housing and medical care. Providing funding for youth emergency housing statewide may assist youth in meeting their basic living requirements and support them in acquiring life skills to meet academic standards and potentially close the achievement gap.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

According to CYFD, the bill does not clearly define “emergency housing for homeless middle and high school students”. If this bill is about Transitional Living, transitional living services include behavioral health and related support services that may provide youth who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless with support in successfully transitioning from unstable environments to situations that are safe, permanent and increase youths’ ability to successfully live independently in the community.

In 2002, the US Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimated that there are nearly 1.7 million homeless and runaway youth in the United States. Many homeless youth leave home after years of physical and/or sexual abuse, addiction of a family member, and/or parental neglect; and many of these youth have been in child welfare custody or foster care. Studies show that homeless youth benefit from programs that meet immediate and basic needs first, including housing, and then help them to address other aspects of their lives (National Coalition for the Homeless, Fact Sheet #13, August 2007). A Colorado study suggests it costs less than \$6,000 to permanently move a homeless youth off the streets, compared to the more than \$53,000 required to maintain a youth in the criminal justice system for one year ([www.medicalnewstoday.com](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com), June 12, 2007).

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

According to PED, HB 367 relates to HB 242, which appropriates \$50,000 to Santa Fe County through DFA to provide transitional living services for youth; relates to SB 302, which appropriates \$125,000 to Bernalillo County through DFA to provide transitional living services for youth; and HB 367, which provides \$30,000 to Taos County through CYFD to provide transitional living services.