

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 1/28/08

SPONSOR Garcia, MJ LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE 3rd Judicial District Staff SB 452

ANALYST C. Sanchez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$349.7	Recurring	General Fund
	\$42.7	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 11

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non- Rec	Fund Affected
Total			Indeterminable			General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 452 appropriates \$392,400 to the third judicial district court to fund seven new full-time staff positions. These new positions are: a legal office specialist, a human resources specialist, a procurement specialist and four clerks.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Total recurring costs will be \$349,700.00. The recurring costs are subject to increased costs resulting from any increases in salaries and benefits for the seven FTEs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the 3rd Judicial District, four clerk positions are needed as a result of an increase in case filings. The city and county have experienced growth in population, the court has added two judges since 2004, and the court's case processing is complicated by the district attorney's no-plea policy in criminal cases resulting in an unusually high rate of jury trials (106 criminal jury trials in 2006). A legal office specialist will assist with the high rate of self-represented litigants, especially in the domestic relations cases where up to one-half of the filings are by self-represented litigants. A human resource specialist will assist the current single FTE devoted to all personnel actions, including tracking and entering all data required for the PeopleSoft system. A procurement specialist will assist with the added burdens resulting from new procedures required by PeopleSoft and to ensure compliance with the Procurement Code and inventory control. At least four of the requested positions are indicated by the 2004 Staff Study.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The district court is participating in performance-based budgeting. Staff changes should improve the approved output performance measures of the court.

DUPLICATION

HB 2

The LFC recommendation adopted by HAFC, includes \$80 thousand for an additional court clerk II FTE.

RELATIONSHIP

SB 11

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation could reduce the court's case processing time.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status Quo.

CS/bb