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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/09

SPONSOR Rodriguez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Outreach for Deaf Persons SB 347

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act for the Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 347 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration to fund support service providers for a community outreach program for the deaf in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD), a non-profit organization in Albuquerque, provides case management and referral services for several state agencies but principally the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH). In FY08, CDHH spent about \$300 thousand through a contract with COPD and in FY09 has some \$400 thousand to contract for services.

Laws 2008, Chapter 6 (Senate Bill 165), the “junior” bill, appropriated \$50 thousand in contractual services to the Governor’s Commission on Disability (GCD) for operational support of the COPD. GCD has transferred the appropriation to CDHH. Funding for CDHH operations comes from a 0.33 percent surcharge on telephone charges.

There is a national pilot program for support service provider (SSP) programs to that assist deaf-blind persons in maintaining an independent lifestyle. According to the Seattle Deaf Blind Service Center, “Support Service Providers, or SSPs, are trained, sighted guides and providers of visual and environmental information so that DB [Deaf Blind] people can go about their banking, shopping and do essential errands independently.” SSPs give “this visual and environmental information so that the DB person can make informed choices and decisions and so that the DB person can participate in the wider (mainstream) community.”

The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing supports this appropriation.

BE/mc