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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lovejoy ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/10
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Crownpoint Teen Court SB 257
ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	\$110.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

No Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department
Department of Finance Administration

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 257 appropriates \$110.0 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department for the purpose for expenditure in fiscal year 2011 to fund a teen court in Crownpoint.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$110.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2011 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

AOC stated the Crownpoint District Court's Navajo Judicial Branch has assisted in the operation of a teen court that is federally funded for many years. The Crownpoint teen court was the first such court in the Navajo Nation. Participating youth have gained knowledge and confidence

from learning about the judicial process, including taking responsibility for their own actions. This is especially important with the recent growth of youth gangs in the area and the prevalence of substance abuse. Through the teen court, Crownpoint teens have had educational presentations by district attorneys, prosecutors and others. Students voluntarily staff the teen court themselves, except for the judge who is a staff attorney at the Crownpoint District Court. Teen defendants may be accompanied only by their parents, who are often not permitted to speak. Over 25 youth, ages 11 to 17 years old, have participated in the program. The program partners but does not receive funding from the local behavioral health collaborative.

AOC noted the appropriation in the proposed legislation would allow the program to expand, reaching out to local schools for additional referrals. The Crownpoint teen court monitors students' attendance, truancy, grades and conduct. When combined with the Navajo Nation's peacemaking process, where family and friends of the defendant are gathered together in a traditional setting to provide stern reminders of the Navajo philosophy, the Crownpoint teen court is very successful.

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