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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/24/12

SPONSOR Garcia, M.J. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Child Abuse Public Awareness Campaign SB 64

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$350.0	Recurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 57
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Department of Finance & Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 64 appropriates \$350,000 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2013 to establish a child abuse public awareness campaign.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY13 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA states that the appropriation contained in the bill will be used to establish a public awareness campaign focused on child abuse. The campaign will focus on the prevention of, intervention in and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

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Currently, CYFD budgets \$50,000 of the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act for the purpose of a child abuse public awareness campaign. Over the last two years this funding has been used to support the #SAFE campaign which advertises the use of a new cellular telephone short code number and toll free number to report child abuse. As a result of these efforts, CYFD has experienced an increase in the number of reports received and an increase in the number of child abuse and neglect investigations.

CYFD investigates approximately 1,500 investigations each month. Investigations may include multiple types of child maltreatment. Of those cases substantiated, approximately 75% are for neglect, 25% for physical abuse. Sexual abuse accounts for 2% of all substantiated cases.

Early identification of maltreated or at-risk children provides opportunities for improved outcomes for these children as the impact of long term maltreatment can be remediated or severe maltreatment might be avoided. Expanded caseload might require additional staff capacity in order to provide quality services to any additional children and families coming to the attention of the agency as a result of this campaign.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Existing staff will absorb administrative efforts related to the development of the campaign.

RELATIONSHIP

SB 64 relates to SB 57, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DFA suggests adding language to provide authorization to implement and disseminate a public awareness program.

DW/svb