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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/12

SPONSOR Nunez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 257

SHORT TITLE Homeless Children Services SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Aledo-Sandoval

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB303

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 257 appropriates \$150.0 thousand from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department for expenditure in FY13 to provide childcare services to homeless children in Dona Ana County.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 thousand 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.

The CYFD states that the effort required to administer this appropriation would be absorbed by existing resources.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The following information was provided by the Children, Youth and Families Department:

Research and data demonstrate the growing numbers of homeless children and youth, nationally and statewide, as well as the significant and adverse impact of homelessness on their physical health, behavioral health, educational/learning achievements and general well-being.

As per data cited in the House Memorial 7 Report dated November, 2010, parents with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, now comprising roughly one-third of the total homeless population (The National Center on Family Homelessness, 2009, *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness*. Newton, MA.). They are also the least visible. Families who are homeless are often hidden away, doubling up with friends or in motels rather than on the streets, many afraid to disclose their situation for fear of embarrassment, of having their children taken away, or of the family splitting up. Families experiencing homelessness are typically comprised of a mother in her late twenties with two children. Forty-two percent of homeless children are under the age of six (The National Center, 2009).

In 2009, New Mexico was ranked 47 out of 50 states on the problem of children homelessness according to *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness* (The National Center, 2009). This ranking took into account the extent of child homelessness, child well-being, risk for child homelessness, and state policies and plans to address the issue. In New Mexico, during the 2005-2006 school year, the estimated number of children and youth who were homeless was 8,900. That number has increased to approximately 14,500 children and youth experiencing homelessness in the 2008-2009 school year. Approximately 60 percent are school-aged children and 40 percent are under the age of six (The National Center, 2009).

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