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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/24

SPONSOR Jones/Terrazas

BILL
NUMBER House Bill 180

SHORT TITLE Pregnancy & Parenting Website & Hotline

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY24	FY25	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
		\$343.3 to \$571.9	\$443.3 to \$671.9	\$786.6 to \$1,243.8	Recurring	General Fund
Total		\$343.3 to \$571.9	\$443.3 to \$671.9	\$786.6 to \$1,243.8	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
Department of Health (DOH)
Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 180

House Bill 180 (HB180) appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a pregnancy and parenting resource website and hotline that provides information on social services, financial assistance, adoption services, pregnancy and parenting information, planning guidance, care centers and other available public and private resources for expectant families and new parents. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the general fund.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

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 FY25 shall revert to the general fund. Although House Bill 180 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new resource website and hotline creates an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost is assumed to be recurring.

DOH reports the operating cost to create and maintain a hotline would require additional personnel, contractors to answer caller inquiries, and infrastructure to allow incoming calls through a dedicated line. Currently, DOH maintains a helpline which covers a wide variety of public health topics. DOH stated the helpline currently provides constituents with referrals for similar resources, including connection to primary care providers, OB-GYNs, and other low-cost resources for families. To expand the DOH helpline to cover additional call volume, the department reported three additional contract staff would be required at an estimated cost of \$443.3 thousand per year. DOH reported the below cost estimation detail:

Personnel Services & Employee Benefits (PS&EB)	Annual Cost
Hotline specialist nurse thru Rapid Temps Agency - \$65 p/h - X 3 contractors	\$405,600
Tax and Admin Fees to Rapid Temps Agency - \$0.081875 X \$405600	\$33,208.50
Subtotal:	\$438,808.50
Office Setup	
Computer and Phone Setup - \$1,500 per staff x 3	\$4,500
Subtotal:	\$4,500
TOTAL	\$443,308.50

DOH Estimated Cost Scenario 2: Establish New Hotline Dedicated to Pregnancy and Parenting Creating an entirely new hotline would require significantly more resources. Costs for contract staff, one FTE position, and infrastructure would combine to \$671,896.20. The costs for both options would recur annually.

Personnel Services & Employee Benefits (PS&EB)	Annual Cost
Program Manager (Epidemiologist Supervisor) Pay Band 80 - \$86,206 (midpoint) x 1 FTE x 1.39 (benefits)	\$119,826
Hotline specialist nurse - Rapid Temps Agency - \$65 p/h x 40h/week - X 3 contractors	\$405,600
Tax and Admin Fees to Rapid Temps Agency - \$0.081875 X \$405,600	\$33,208.50
Logistics hotline specialist - Kelly Agency - \$39/hr x 40h/week - X 1 contractor	\$81,120
Tax and Admin Fees to Kelly Agency - \$0.081875 X \$81,120	\$6,641.70
Subtotal:	\$646,396
Office Setup	
Computer and Phone Setup - \$1,500 per staff x 5	\$7,500
Webex System for	\$17,000
Licensing and maintenance costs	\$1,000
Subtotal:	\$25,500
Total	\$671,896

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reports:

According to the national organization “Zero to Three” almost half of expectant and new parents do not feel they have the support they need when they are stressed. When new parents feel supported, they create a more caring and healthy environment for their babies. And specialists at nonprofit Zero to Three say kids in homes like these go on to fare better both academically and socially. Source: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/national-parent-survey-overview-and-key-insights>

There are existing sites within the New Mexico Department of Health and the Early Care and Education Department (ECECD) that provide information to parents and persons expecting. This includes the newly created DOH 1-833-SWNURSE) 1-833-796-8773 who have dedicated nurse available to answer questions related to reproductive health and direct callers to resources.

The ECECD site <https://www.nmeccd.org/information-for-parents/> also provides resources around childcare, home visiting, food security and early intervention. An additional ECECD resource- Moments Together- is directed to prenatal and parenting small children resources <https://momentsnm.org>.