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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 301

**SHORT TITLE:** Foster Parent Caring for Indian Child Support

**SPONSOR:** Pinto/Lopez

**LAST ORIGINAL**  
**UPDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** 2/10/2026 **ANALYST:** Malone

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$4,000.0	Nonrecurring	General fund

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to Senate Bill 242

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis  
Children, Youth and Families Department  
Indian Affairs Department

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 301

Senate Bill 301 (SB301) appropriates \$4 million from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) for the foster engagement adaptability diversity initiative program. The program supports culturally competent training services for foster parents caring for an Indian child pursuant to the Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA) and the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$4 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Through the Foster Engagement Adaptability Diversity Initiative New Mexico (READI NM), CYFD provides a program of bilingual, evidence-based training designed to prepare relative and community resource (foster) parents to provide safe, nurturing, and culturally response care for children in custody. The training is mandatory for any adult identified as a caretaker for a foster child.

Currently, READI includes an ICWA/IFPA best practices module. The module is designed to help foster parents understand the historical and generational trauma experienced by Native American families and the importance of adhering to ICWA and IFPA. The trauma-informed module teaches participants how federal and state laws protect Indigenous youth and families by promoting stability, cultural identity, and tribal sovereignty.

CYFD states the funding in SB301 would be spent developing and deploying culturally competent trainings as part of the READI program. However, the agency does not identify how those trainings would differ or expand on the existing module or specify a need unaddressed by the existing model.

In 2024, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for expenditure in FY25-FY27 for the related, though more general, purpose of providing “trauma-informed training for staff and foster families.” At the time of this analysis, CYFD had expended only \$333.9 thousand of the appropriation, leaving about \$1.2 million available for expenditure during the remainder of FY26 and in FY27. The agency could use the existing appropriation to provide additional training services for foster parents caring for indigenous youth.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD notes the agency has performance measures related to placement stability and the provision of culturally appropriate and competent services that could be positively affected by SB301.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD notes any administrative costs will be absorbed by existing resources.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

SB301 relates to Senate Bill 242, which appropriates \$3 million to CYFD for the Office of Tribal Affairs to contract for a field liaison to ensure compliance with IFPA and ICWA.

CEM/ct/hg/sgs