

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used for other purposes.

The most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Duran DATE TYPED: 02/25/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Marriage License Fee Revenue to County Clerks SB 853

ANALYST: Chabot

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04			
	(\$113.6)	(\$113.6)	Recurring	Children's Trust Fund
	\$113.6	\$113.6	Recurring	Local Govern- ments' General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 853 amends Section 40-1-11 on marriage licenses and eliminates the \$15.00 share of each license that goes to the Children's Trust Fund administered by CYFD. The counties would retain the entire \$25.00 fee. In addition, minor editorial changes are made.

Significant Issues

This bill would eliminate approximately 60 percent of the funding source for the Children's Trust Fund (CTF). The purpose of the CTF according to Section 24-19-2 is to provide the means to develop innovative projects that address the following: preventing abuse and neglect of children; providing medical, psychological and other appropriate treatment for children who are vic-

tims of abuse or neglect; and developing community-based services aimed at the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The Governor appoints a nine-member board of trustees to administer the CTF.

Currently there are 25 organizations receiving grants from CTF totaling \$493,116, some of which were funded by revenue from prior years. If the revenue source is reduced, projects administered by CTF will need to be cut back.

Retention of all the revenue from marriage licenses will help resolve budget shortfalls in county offices.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Approximately \$113.6 is earned by the CTF from the \$15.00 portion of marriage license fees annually. If enacted, this bill would allow the county clerks to retain this amount prorated by county based upon the number of licenses processed.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DOH requests all references to the “department of health” be deleted as they no longer perform duties involving the issuance of marriage licenses. However, the agency did not provide any recommendations for rewording the statute.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Which would provide the greater value to the citizens of New Mexico, continuation of CTF grants and related activities or providing additional revenue to the counties?
2. How does the CTF board measure outcomes of activities funded by grants? What have been the major accomplishments?
3. How will counties use the additional revenue?

GAC/prr