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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/06

SPONSOR Cordova LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 15

HOMELESS SHELTERS FOR BENEFIT

SHORT TITLE DISTRIBUTION SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 15 requests that HSD promulgate a rule that enables homeless shelter addresses to be used as distribution points for TANF cash assistance and that HSD identify street addresses of commonly used homeless shelters throughout the state to assist in this effort.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HSD indicates some minimal administrative costs, under \$8 thousand, may be associated with such an effort.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HSD notes that currently all TANF benefits are issued through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to a benefit card similar to an ATM card. All EBT cards are issued at HSD's Income Support Division (ISD) field offices. A permanent address is not a necessary condition for receipt of TANF benefits. Homeless individuals pick up their cards at the ISD office, as do all others receiving public assistance benefits on EBT cards.

Within a few months, ISD will be converting to a central card issuance process where all EBT

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cards will be mailed to eligible participating families. The EBT cards may be mailed to any valid address, including homeless shelters if that is the recipient's preferred mailing address. Promulgating a rule for this purpose is unnecessary. The practice of a shelter receiving and forwarding other mail on to benefit recipients is currently ongoing at St. Martin's in Albuquerque.

A compilation of street and mailing addresses for homeless shelters would require a minimum of effort by HSD staff. The information is currently available locally.

MW/nt