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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/2006

SPONSOR Martinez LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE Create Municipal Court Support Division SB 18

ANALYST McSherry

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$500.7	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY06	FY07	FY08	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$8	0	\$8	Non- recurring	General fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 18, "Create Municipal Court Support Division," would appropriate \$500,700 from the general fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts for the purpose of funding a Municipal Court Support Division within the Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The AOC proposes the following budget of the proposed municipal court support division:

Salary for 1 Senior Attorney	123,200
Salary for 2 Auditors	163,500
Salary for Administrative Assistant	63,998

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Municipal Administrative Manuals	130,000
Travel	20,000
Total	\$500,698

Additional operational budget impact is estimated as \$2 thousand/employee for furniture, computer and supplies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The AOC seeks the appropriation included in this bill at the direction of the Supreme Court to assist municipal courts statewide.

The appropriation would be used to hire an attorney, two auditors and an administrative assistant to provide support for all municipal judges throughout the state.

The Supreme Court has superintending control over all courts within the State of New Mexico and seeks to create this division within the AOC. According to AOC, the proposed changes would assist the Court in assuring that all municipal judges are aware of, and are following, proper rules and procedures.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The courts are participating in performance-based budgeting. It is unknown if enactment of this bill would impact performance measures as they relate to judicial budgeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The enactment of this bill will enable the AOC to provide assistance to municipal courts statewide in administrative operations within these courts.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this bill is not enacted, the Supreme Court will be very limited in its ability to provide much needed support for municipal courts.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Does the AOC receive requests from the municipal courts for legal, administrative and financial support currently? If so, does the AOC provide any support or referrals?
2. What is the expected workload should the AOC receive the proposed appropriation and associated staff?
3. What range of staffing levels is held by the municipal courts in NM?
4. How many municipal judges are attorneys?
5. Have funding sources from municipalities been investigated for the purposes proposed in this bill?