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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-9-06

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE At-Risk Youth Character Development Program SB 574

ANALYST Segura

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 280, HB14 and HB 529

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 574 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to PED to implement character development programs for four tribal and four non-tribal schools. The appropriation would focus on at-risk youth in the eight schools.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 574 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund and is recurring. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, the Center of Disease Prevention and Control, six priority health risk behaviors contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, social problems in the United States. These behaviors, often established during childhood and early adolescence.

Many school districts are challenged by a rising tide of problems that include gang-related activities, substance abuse, absenteeism, high dropout rates, and students with minimal English proficiency, decreasing parental involvement and support, and changing family structures.

The dropout rate among Hispanic students has remained at about 25 percent, much higher than that of white and black students, whose dropout rates have declined steadily.

The Native American population in particular is disproportionately affected by many social and drug and alcohol abuse. The Character Counts program funded by the PED is currently funding 17 projects statewide.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 574 positively impact the academic achievement of youth participating in the program by improving attendance, resulting in improved reading and math scores and increasing the graduation rate of students in New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to PED, the department would coordinate funding for 8 New Mexico schools. This can be accomplished with existing staff.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB 280, HB 14 and HB 529.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to PED, during the recent tribal education summit, it was emphasized by tribal leadership that educational programs for Native American children be supportive of tribal values, beliefs, language, knowledge and philosophies.

RS/nt