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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-4-06

SPONSOR Taylor LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Welfare Reform Policy Effectiveness SJM 16

ANALYST Baca

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	None		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 16 resolves that the Human Services Department (HSD) be requested to collect such data and to convene a working families task force to examine and report on the data and on the effectiveness of the welfare reform measures undertaken in the past decade, comparing incomes, earnings and employment longevity of program participants and other relevant data from the start of the temporary assistance for needy families program to the year 2005.

SJM 16 further resolves that the working families task force report to the welfare reform oversight committee by October 2006 on the effectiveness of the welfare reform measures undertaken in the past decade. The task force is to include designees of the Secretary of Human Services, the Secretary of Children, Youth and Families, the Secretary of Indian affairs, the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Training and Development and five representatives of appropriate community groups whose charters include serving the state's poorest people.

Copies of the memorial are to be transmitted to the Secretary of Human Services, the Secretary of Children, Youth and Families, the Secretary of Indian affairs, the Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Training and Development.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SJM 16 contains no appropriation. Presumably, costs for the study will be borne by the Human Services Department. Costs for the study may include expenses for the working families task force, data collection and any data storage and retrieval software and additional staffing that may

be required to implement the provisions of SJM 16.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The plight of the poor, the homeless and those who continue to learn substantially less than the federal poverty level has been addressed by various welfare program reforms. Yet, it is observed, the disparity between the haves and the have-nots appears to continue and even worsen. HJM 16 addresses the need for policy makers to know what impact their policy decisions are having on the targeted populations.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The information for making better informed policy decisions may not be available, and welfare reform and/or assistance may not be as effective as desired.

LRB/mt