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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR King LAST UPDATED _____ HB 277

SHORT TITLE Protect Children From Methamphetamine SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$500.0	Recurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC)
 Public Defender Department (PDD)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 277 appropriates \$500 thousand from the GENERAL FUND to the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of a statewide project that protects children against methamphetamine by raising awareness about the negative consequences and risks associated with the use of methamphetamine.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a RECURRING expense to the GENERAL FUND. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FISCAL YEAR 2009 shall revert to the GENERAL FUND.

The Attorney General's Office provides the proposed budget to accomplish the goals of the program.

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Media Campaign:	\$175,000 (Radio and Billboards)
Brochure Packet:	\$ 75,000 (Design and Production).
Travel and Training:	\$ 75,000 (Statewide in-person presentations)
Funding Requests:	<u>\$175,000</u> (i.e. Boys and Girls Clubs of New Mexico)
Total:	\$500,000

The budget items are based on estimated costs and are subject to adjustment to ensure successful efforts to reach communities in need, including Native American communities and areas hardest hit by underage methamphetamine use.

The Department of Health's FY08 operating budget includes \$6,539.8 million in contractual services for substance abuse prevention. Of this, \$15 thousand is from state general funds for a youth program in Las Vegas. The remainder is from federal funds is focused primarily on tobacco and alcohol compliance and prevention issues.

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys suggests looking into coordinating with other programs in existence such as MethWatch which is administered through the Department of Public Safety.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Attorney General's Office presented information from the National Drug Intelligence Center of the U. S. Department of Justice, which identified Methamphetamine as "the greatest drug threat to the Southwest Region, accounting for 66 percent of the drug use in the southwest." New Mexico is rated fifth among the Department of Justice's High Intensity Drug Traffic Areas (HIDTA) in the southwest. In our region, Amphetamine (including Methamphetamine) treatment admissions have risen from 46,540 in 2001 to 82,319 in 2005 (DOJ's most recent information). Other statistics from the Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. and New Mexico Departments of Health and Human Services found that "The drug is used by all ages, races, and genders, increasingly gaining popularity among New Mexico's most vulnerable—teens and young adults. In 2005, Meth use exceeded 10 percent among high school students in 33percent of the counties across the state. In some counties teen use was as high as 15.7 percent. New Mexico reported one of the highest percentage increases in Meth related arrests in the country, with an increase of 100 percent between 2002 and 2005. In 2005, routine drug screens completed at a county hospital emergency room showed that 25 percent of the patients tested positive for Meth."

It also adds that similar educational programs have been instituted in other states, such as Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Hawaii, and Montana. A statewide survey of teens in Idaho revealed a significant lack of understanding on the part of teenagers about the dangers associated with methamphetamine. A pilot project in Montana designed to educate the public about the dangers of methamphetamine showed a 45 percent decrease in teen use of methamphetamine and a 53 percent decrease in methamphetamine-related crime.

Department of Health offers a local perspective and adds that among high school aged children, there is a higher prevalence of methamphetamine use in New Mexico than in the rest of the country. In 2005, 6.2 percent of US high school students reported having used methamphetamine, while 7.5 percent of NM high school students reported having used methamphetamine within the previous 12 months. There was no statistically significant

difference in the prevalence of methamphetamine use among NM high school students by region or by rural/urban residence (NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS)).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are over 68,000 middle school children and 95,000 high school students in New Mexico. The bill targets these students in an effort to prevent and reduce methamphetamine use by minors in New Mexico.

The outreach staff of the Office of the Attorney General will administer surveys to the participants at the conclusion of each presentation. The data will be compiled, analyzed and presented in report form to the legislature at Fiscal Year End 2009 to document the results of the program.

The Department of Health suggests that the success of the program be measured using the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), which is already in place and measures the use of methamphetamine by high school students. This effort could be expanded to include a larger sample of New Mexico youth, with more participation from ethnic minorities and a wider age group (middle school students). Data from a survey such as the YRRS will be vital to evaluating the success of this project.

DOH adds that the funding in HB277 would help support the 2006 New Mexico Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan Chapter 7 Behavioral Health goals: GOAL 1: Improve access, quality, and value of mental health and substance abuse services through an Interagency Collaborative Model; GOAL 2: Improve Services to High-Risk and High-Need Individuals; and GOAL 3: Increase rural, frontier, and border access to behavioral health services.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB240, which would appropriate \$150 thousand from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in FY09 for drug abuse education and prevention in Lea County.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Department of Health explains that Hispanics have the highest rates of drug related deaths in New Mexico. (*Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Report Card, New Mexico Department of Health, 2007*). While the highest use of methamphetamine has been among white young adults, New Mexico Hispanics are the largest minority group of users with amphetamines, heroin, and cocaine as their drug of choice.

ALTERNATIVES

Department of Health suggests the following clarifications to HB277:

1. Clarify the location of the proposed services and the strategies to be used to raise awareness of the negative consequences and risks related to methamphetamine.
2. Clarify who or what entity is to be involved in the prevention and education of the risks of methamphetamine. The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) in the Department of Health (DOH) oversees statewide drug abuse prevention services.

3. Specify whether the targeted audience for the drug abuse education and prevention is school based, incarcerated/adjudicated, or other youth groups.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Describe the successes that similar education campaigns have had in decreasing drug use?
How will agencies with funds for similar purposes be coordinated with this effort by the AGO?

EO/mt