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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Papen ORIGINAL DATE 1/18/08
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Dona Ana Pretrial Triage Service SB 98
ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$172.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 98, Making an Appropriation for Pretrial Triage Services for Nonviolent, Mentally Ill Misdemeanor Detainees in Dona Ana County, appropriates \$172 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration for the purpose of providing pretrial triage services in magistrate court for nonviolent, mentally ill misdemeanor detainees in Dona Ana County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$172 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Human Services Department (HSD), the Senate Joint Memorial 34 Study Group, which has submitted its Report to for the 2008 legislative session, identified the gaps in services for responding to psychiatric crises in Dona Ana County. The absence of pretrial

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services where mentally ill residents charged with a misdemeanor could be appropriately and efficiently treated was identified as a gap in services in Dona Ana County.

The term “triage services” customarily means an urgent assessment of the psychiatric status of a patient to determine the best course of treatment. SM 98 does not define this term or specify what services are to be purchased.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HSD notes that the bill appropriates \$172 thousand to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration without prescribing whether it is intended for the Human Services Department, Dona Ana County or other governmental unit. Also, the cost basis for the appropriation is not specified.

WEP/mt