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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	Gar	cia, M.J.	ORIGINAL DATE LAST UPDATED	01/25/10	НВ		
SHORT TITLE		Domestic Abuse	Uniform Police Reports		SB	27	
				ANAL	YST	Weber	

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected		
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI					

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Administrative Office of the District Attorney (AODA)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 27 requires the (DPS) to develop a standard domestic abuse report form to be used by law enforcement officers when investigating or making an arrest for a violation of the Crimes Against Household Members Act, the Harassment and Stalking Act or a similar municipal or county ordinance.

The bill also requires DPS to consult with law enforcement agencies statewide to periodically review and update the standard domestic abuse report form.

The bill further requires that all law enforcement officers use the standard domestic abuse report form when investigating or making an arrest for violations of the above-mentioned laws.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications other than the minimal cost associated with printing and distributing the uniform form and this should be distributed among all law enforcement agencies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Making it a statutory requirement to use a uniform report minimizes the possibility that individual law enforcement agencies will slowly alter the form and unintentionally reduce its value.

The AOC notes the following on the value of uniform reports.

Uniform report forms assist law enforcement from different jurisdictions recognize a perpetrator more easily and to take the appropriate actions safely and without delay. Accessing a standard report means the officer can quickly review the information on the form to determine prior arrests and weapon involvement. Uniform report forms are used in traffic citations and other types of cases, so that when officers outside the issuing jurisdiction make a stop, such reports are available to police or sheriff's officers in a familiar format, thus accelerating the administration of justice.

Using standard report forms helps clerks more readily enter reported data into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or other automated systems for outside jurisdictions to use in enforcing the law. They are also easier for the courts and others in the criminal justice system to review when processing these cases, because the same type of information is placed in the same location on each case. Not having to search through unfamiliar reports to locate needed details saves time for judges and court staff to handle other cases.

CYFD adds information that points out the potential for increased victim safety.

Research has shown that obtaining an adequate victim statement that includes specific information on the perpetrator's threats to kill or harm is the single most significant law enforcement response to domestic violence.

The proposed domestic abuse report format was developed using research from Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell's validated danger assessment tool whose intent is to effectively identify victims who appear to be at greatest risk of eventually being murdered or driven to suicide by their partners. Implementation of a lethality driven report form will improve law enforcement investigations, reduce dual arrests, decrease domestic violence homicides and increase victim safety.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HPC offers the following information.

Incidents of domestic violence go unreported to law enforcement due to refusal of family, friends, or neighbors to report. In addition, patients that are seen in the healthcare/ emergency room setting with a domestic violence- and stalking-related injury are typically not reported to law enforcement and represent an additional area of underreporting.

In 2007. New Mexico identified:

- 22,286 domestic violence incidents;
- 78 homicides statewide, 18% (32) were domestic violence related;
- 53% (4,436) of the adult victims who sought services from domestic violence service providers claimed they did not report their incident to law enforcement; and

Senate Bill 27 – Page 3

• On average one in every seven incidents of domestic violence reported involved a child witness and an average of two children were present at each.

(Source: 2010 Quick Facts. http://www.hpc.state.nm.us/)

Attached is the proposed uniform domestic violence report.

MW/svb

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	*****Answers to Lethality Questions are provided by (Name):	Person Code:	Identified HHM Code:												
	1. Has the Household Member (or whoever the aggressor is) ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	□ Y □ N	□ NOT □ DON'T												
	2. Does the Household Member have a history of mental illness?	□ Y □ N	□ NOT □ DON'T RECALL □ KNOW												
	3. Do you think the Household Member will kill you?	□ Y □ N	RECALL DON'T												
	4. Does the Household Member have a gun or can they get one easily?	□ Y □ N	RECALL DON'T												
	5. Has the Household Member ever tried to choke / strangle you?	☐ Y ☐ N	RECALL DON'T												
	is the Household Member violently or constantly jealous or does the	ПУПИ	NOT DON'T												
	7. Household Member control most of your daily activities? 7. Have you left the Household Member or separated within the last year?		RECALL KNOW												
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_	8. Are you currently involved in another relationship?		RECALL WINOW DON'T												
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	12. Has the Household Member ever threatened Homicide or Suicide?	SELF	VICTIM CHILDREN												
LETHALITY	13. Does the Household Member follow, stalk or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	□ Y □ N	RECALL DON'T												
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	15. statement? Does the Household Member have a violent history outside of the		RECALL KNOW DON'T												
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	17. Is the Household Member violent toward children?	□ Y □ N	RECALL DON'T												
	18. Are you currently pregnant?	□ Y □ N	RECALL DON'T												
	19. Is the Household Member violent toward any animals?	□ Y □ N	RECALL DON'T												
	20. Does the Household Member regularly abuse alcohol or Alcohol Drugs	\square Y \square N	NOT DON'T												
	drugs? Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? If yes, what is it?		RECALL KNOW												
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