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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/11

SPONSOR Chavez, D. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 217

SHORT TITLE Field Trips To Jails In 7th And 8th Grade SB _____

ANALYST Haug

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$6.6	NFI	\$6.6	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 217 would require every middle school to take seventh and eighth graders on at least one field trip to a jail or juvenile detention facility unless a student's parents sign a waiver. Should the parent sign a waiver of participation, the middle school must provide an alternate learning experience about the consequences of juvenile and adult crime. The intent of the field trip is to deter delinquency.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 217 contains no appropriation. The PED estimates a usual rules development cost of \$6.6 thousand dollars which is reflected in the table above. While there is not additional state impact the PED notes that with respect to local school districts:

Middle schools would be required to secure buses for the field trip. As bus rates are negotiated at the local level the fiscal impact will vary depending on the bus cost and the length of time for the field trip, for example:

- Albuquerque, Jemez Valley, Raton and Cimarron bus contractors charge \$29.90/hr. plus \$1.10 per mile. They also add late fees. If the group is 5 to 10 minutes late, the

contractors charge an additional \$55; over 10 minutes the additional charge is \$90.

- In town charges for Santa Fe are 2 hrs \$100, and 3 hrs \$130. If the bus must go out of town the charge is \$32 plus \$2 per mile.
- Bernalillo bus service is \$14 an hour, plus \$1.10 per mile, plus 16.2% to cover driver benefits. For any driver down time a charge of \$8.50 per hour is charged.
- Farmington charges are as follows: In town 50 miles, or less than 2 hours is \$45 plus \$12.98 per hour. 4 hours is \$90 plus \$12.98 per hour. Over 50 miles is \$1.55 per mile.
- Rio Rancho charges \$22.90 an hour plus \$0.70 a mile plus a \$28 cleaning fee.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The PED states:

In New Mexico there are 29 county adult detention centers, 4 city adult jails, 14 pre-adjudicated youth facilities, and 4 youth centers for youth that have been sentenced by the court. Some adult facilities will not allow mixing juveniles with adults.

Research has indicated that delinquency deterrent programs, such as “Scared Straight Jail and Detention Tours”, are not effective (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Anthony J. Schembri White Paper: *Scared Straight*).

The original New Jersey Scared Straight program was evaluated in 1982 using a randomized control group (Finckenauer, 1982). The evaluation reported that not only was there no effect on the criminal behavior of participants who went through the program in comparison with those who did not, the participants were actually more likely to be arrested (Finckenauer, 1982; Petrosino et al., 2003).

The CYFD comments:

Petrosino et. al. in their report “‘Scared Straight’ and other juvenile awareness programs for preventing juvenile delinquency” conducted a meta-analysis review of Scared Straight programs with the most rigorous methodological standards to date. Meta-analysis results show the scared straight-type intervention *increases* the odds of offending by between 1.6 and 1.7 to 1 compared to a no-treatment control group. These findings lead the researchers to conclude that participating in the Scared Straight program actually correlates with an increase in re-offending compared to a control group of youth who received no intervention at all. Other reviews of the research find deterrence-oriented programs ineffective in preventing crime (Lipsey, 1992; Sherman et al., 1997). More explicitly, the Sherman et al. “What works” report to the U.S. Congress reviewed over 500 crime prevention evaluations and listed Scared Straight under their “what does not work” category. The research findings remind us that even while programs are operating with the best intentions, and are intuitively appropriate, we must continue to evaluate services and treatment provided to youth in the most empirically and methodologically sound way possible, to ensure our good intentions are in keeping with our goals and mission.

The CYFD also reports the following from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice:

First introduced in the 1970s as a “hard-hitting” way to prevent juvenile delinquency,

Scared Straight programs became popular before being thoroughly evaluated. Three subsequent decades of research show that programs premised on Scared Straight approaches are ineffective, counterproductive and costly.

GH/mew