

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/11

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Corinne Wolf Children's Law Center SB 23

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
\$165.0	\$250.0	Recurring	Child Protection Education Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12	FY13		
\$165.0	\$250.0	>\$250.0	Recurring	Child Protection Education Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Conflicts with the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 23 creates the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center at the Institute of Public Law at the University of New Mexico, creates the Child Protection Education Fund, provides for the administration of the fund, and imposes fees on certain offenders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill creates a new fund as a non-reverting fund in the state treasury. The LFC has concerns with including non-reverting language in the statutory provisions for newly created funds, as earmarking reduces the ability of the legislature to establish spending priorities.

This bill imposes a fee on citizens convicted for operating a motor vehicle in violation of the motor vehicle code or convictions of petty misdemeanor or violation of ordinances punishable by a term of imprisonment.

The administrative office of the courts estimates the fee will generate about \$165 thousand in FY12 and \$250 thousand in FY13. It appears this amount will continue to grow annually.

This bill is in conflict with the General Appropriation Act that contains an appropriation of \$185.5 thousand to the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center. Revenue raised from this bill would increase available revenues for the program above FY09 levels.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The director of the Institute of Public Law at UNM notes that SB-23 will restore funding reductions incurred in recent years, this at a time when all other research and public service projects at all universities have sustained similar reductions.

The Corinne Wolfe children's law center currently exists at the Institute of Public Law at the University of New Mexico. The Center works to improve outcomes for children and youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system by providing education, training, reference materials and technical training to CYFD case workers and juvenile probation officers, court personnel, Guardians ad Litem, Youth Attorneys, respondent attorneys, children's court attorneys, court-appointed special advocates (CASAs), citizen review board members, youth in foster care and foster parents.

Currently, provisions contained in Section 35-6-1 include the addition of approximately \$70.00 to the penalty amount assessed for a violation of the motor vehicle code. Of this amount, \$3.00 is already assessed for judicial education. It appears this revenue could be used by the Corinne Wolfe program if additional revenues are needed.

HA/bym