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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR SFL ORIGINAL DATE 02/16/11  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Require Child Abuse Problems Study SB 76/SFLS  
ANALYST Peery-Galon

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$15.0-\$30.0		\$15.0-\$30.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)

#### No Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

The Senate Floor substitute for Senate Bill 76 requires a temporary provision to study child abuse problems in New Mexico. The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the graduate social work programs at New Mexico Highlands University and New Mexico State University will conduct a study of child abuse problems in New Mexico and the services and systems available to address child abuse problems in New Mexico. The study will include recommendations for ways to minimize, stop and prevent child abuse incidents and their consequences. The Children, Youth and Families Department will report its findings and recommendations to the New Mexico Legislative Council and appropriate interim legislative committee on or before November 1, 2011.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico Highlands University noted the proposed legislation does not include an appropriation. Without funding to support release time for faculty members to assist in carrying

out the study, the School of Social Work cannot absorb the costs associated with conducting a statewide study.

CYFD stated the cost to participate in and production of the study will have to be borne by the department and the graduate social work programs at New Mexico Highlands University and New Mexico State University.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

New Mexico Highlands University noted the proposed legislation includes a specific time for the study to be completed and presented, which may present an issue since the School of Social Work operates on an academic year with faculty contracts ending after the Spring semester and beginning once again in the Fall semester. The amount of work needed to perform the study may be impacted by the short time frame and lack of available faculty.

CYFD noted prevention is the best hope for reducing child abuse and neglect and improving the lives of children and families. Strengthening families and preventing child abuse requires a shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community. CYFD reported that professionals working to prevent child abuse and neglect have borrowed from other disciplines, including public health, education and mental health to influence and guide practice. Public health has had the greatest influence in organizing a framework of prevention services. That framework consists of following three levels of services:

- Primary Prevention Programs – directed at the general population (universal);
- Secondary Prevention Programs – targeted to individuals or families in which maltreatment is more likely (high-risk); and
- Tertiary Prevention Programs – targeted toward families in which abuse has already occurred (indicated).

The most effective child abuse prevention efforts are often designed to address the needs and issue specific to a particular community.

PED reported that according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, the *2007 Child Maltreatment Report* documented the following:

- During federal fiscal year 2007, an estimated 3.2 million referrals, involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 5.8 million children, were referred to child protective services agencies.
- Approximately 62 percent of referrals were screened for investigation or assessment by child protective services agencies.
- Approximately 25 percent of the investigations or assessments determined at least one child who was found to be a victim of abuse or neglect with the following report dispositions: 24.1 percent substantiated, 0.6 percent indicated, and 0.5 percent alternative response victim.
- More than 74 percent of the investigations or assessments determined that the child was not a victim of maltreatment with the following dispositions: 61.3 percent unsubstantiated, 6.1 percent alternative response non-victim, 5.7 percent other, 1.6 percent closed with no finding, and 0 percent intentionally false.

PED noted that New Mexico's child protective service agency referred 28,034 reports alleging child abuse and neglect for investigation. The total population of children and youth under the age of 18 in New Mexico is 500,099.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD has the following performance measures regarding child maltreatment:

- 1) percent of children who are not the subject of substantiated maltreatment within six months of a prior determination of substantiated maltreatment, and
- 2) percent of children who are not the subject of substantiated maltreatment while in foster care.

PED reported the proposed legislation support's the department's goal to ensure that students are ready to learn by ensuring all children are ready for kindergarten; providing a safe, inviting and caring learning environment; and keeping students ready to learn by providing access to healthcare, healthy foods and physical fitness.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD noted administrative efforts required by the proposed legislation would have to be absorbed by existing staff.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Senate Bill 76 has a relationship to Senate Bill 79 regarding a child abuse public awareness campaign.

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