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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/12

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Southern Regional Crisis Triage Facility SB 286

ANALYST Geisler

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$5 dollars	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

	FY12	FY13	FY14	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>			Unknown, but potentially significant		Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 286 would appropriate \$5.00 (five dollars) to the Human Services Department (HSD) for expenditure in fiscal year 2013 for the operation of a southern regional crisis triage facility located in Dona Ana County that would serve as a pilot model for the evaluation and diversion to appropriate facilities of people living with mental illness or disability. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB286 would appropriate \$5.00 to HSD for expenditure in fiscal year 2013. HSD notes that while there is little fiscal impact for the Human Services Department (HSD) in FY13, operating

expenses for the facility in FY14 could have a significant impact. This bill may create an expectation for the state to provide operational funding in FY14, although the amount cannot be quantified by HSD at this time.

HSD notes that the appropriation is directed toward operational expenses, not direct services. Behavioral health expenditures are administered by the NM Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) contractor, the Statewide Entity (currently OptumHealth New Mexico) with oversight by the Collaborative.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Project advocates note that the goal of the Crisis Triage Facility in Dona Ana County is to serve all neighboring counties in southern New Mexico to appropriately diagnose individuals arrested and place them in an appropriate facility based on a mental evaluation. The intent of the legislation is to provide a line item to place funding appropriated from various resources for operation of the Crisis Triage facility.

The project has been under development since 2008 and the planning and design phase is complete. Capital funding is being provided by Dona Ana County for construction of the facility on county owned property.

House Joint Memorial 17, Resources for People with Mental Disorders, contained a recommendation to develop and fund regional crisis triage sites where individuals can stay for up to 23 hours to receive immediate stabilization, mental health evaluations, and observation. Law enforcement officers and first responders could take appropriately screened individuals to these sites for assessment and disposition. Currently, law enforcement officers in most areas of the state will take a person who is experiencing an acute mental health crisis to a detention facility because there is no alternative. The use of jails and juvenile detention centers can traumatize individuals and is not the purpose of incarceration. HJM 17 further notes that the Dona Ana County crisis triage plan is an excellent model upon which to build other regional sites and the HJM 17 task force recommends that the legislature fund Dona Ana County's proposal. A copy of the HJM 17 report can be found at:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/committeedetailextra.aspx?CommitteeCode=BHS&Date=12/2/2011>

GG/svb