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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/22/15

SPONSOR Steinborn LAST UPDATED _____ HB 500

SHORT TITLE Youth Mentoring Programs SB _____

ANALYST Malone

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$700.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$700.1	\$700.1	\$1,400.2	Recurring	DFA Special Appropriations

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 500 appropriates \$700.1 thousand from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (LGD of DFA) for youth mentoring programs statewide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$700.1 thousand appropriation contained in this bill is recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The general appropriations bill produced by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee includes \$2.4 million for one-on-one youth mentoring and \$700 thousand for group youth mentoring. This appropriation would supplement those, although the bill does not identify specifically if the funding ought to be used for group or one-on-one mentoring.

Mentoring programs provide opportunities for youth to meet with adults interested in their overall wellbeing. Mentors provide youth with an experienced friend who can help in a number of situations, including: helping keep students interested and engaged in school work, improving a young person’s self-esteem, teaching youth valuable communication and problem solving skills, and assisting with career goal setting.

DOH reports that students who meet regularly with mentors are 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37 percent less likely to skip a class. About 40 percent of a teenager’s waking hours are spent without companionship or supervision.

According to the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resilience Survey (YRRS), students who reported close relationships with their parents, teachers, peers and/or other adults in the community are less likely to engage in risky behaviors than other students. Students who said it was “very much true” that they had a teacher or other adult that really cared about them were less likely than other students to smoke cigarettes (16.8 percent vs. 32.3 percent), use cocaine (3.0 percent vs. 11.8 percent), binge drink (20.1 percent vs. 30.1 percent), be sexually active (31.0 percent vs. 40.0 percent) and attempt suicide (5.8 percent vs. 19.6 percent).

CEM/bb