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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/18

SPONSOR Martinez R/Martinez J LAST UPDATED _____ HM 94

SHORT TITLE Grandparents Raising Grandchildren SB _____

ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Minimal	Minimal	NFI	Minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to 2017 Senate Memorial 92.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 94 would continue the existence of a task force formed pursuant to a 2015 memorial, tasked with expanding resources and assistance available to grandparents raising their own grandchildren. Grandparents raising grandchildren often have needs related to their own age and disability, their uncertain legal status as guardians, and the grandchildren’s mental health problems relating to the reason their parents cannot or will not care for them. The existing task force delivered recommendations to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee in 2016. The existence of the task force was continued in 2017 by means of 2017 Senate Memorial 92.

The task force would continue to be composed of members representing

- Pegasus Legal Service for children
- Voices for Children
- The New Mexico coalition of educational leaders
- Court-appointed advocates for children
- New Mexico parent-teacher association
- American Association of Retired Persons
- Las Cumbres Community Services, Inc.
- Human Services Department

House Memorial 94 – Page 2

- Children, Youth and Families Department
- Public Education Department
- Aging and Long-Term Services Department
- Office of the Attorney General
- Two members from the general public

The task force, which would be coordinated and staffed by ALTSD, CYFD and HSD and would report on recommended policies and resources to the Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services by November 2018.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact other than the participation of agency staff members in the taskforce.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In November 2016, the Taskforce on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren presented an extensive report on its deliberations to that point, with a large number of recommendations as to policy and also four possible legislative approaches to aid grandparents put into the position of raising their grandchildren. The four items of proposed legislation were

1. A possible appropriation bill to create a statewide network of services for grandparents raising their grandchildren.
2. Revision of a caregiver's authorization affidavit to make it easier for kinship caregivers, including grandparents, to enroll their children in preschools and schools, as well as to authorize healthcare.
3. A bill to allow grandparents to access childcare assistance funds regardless of the grandparents' income.
4. A memorial to extend the life of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Taskforce for another year.

The Task Force made a similar report to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee during the 2017 interim.

NMAG notes that there were 56,000 New Mexico children living with grandparents at the time of the 2010 census. It is likely that the number of children living with grandparents has increased since that time due to the effects of the opioid addiction epidemic.

Grandparents raising grandchildren may have needs in the general areas of financial resources, legal services, childcare and school, difficulty meeting food and housing needs, obtaining medical care and transportation, among other things. Last year, ALTSD noted that grandparents often take on raising grandchildren with little advance notice or training, and lack resources to do it well. Legal guardianship of these children is a necessary step; ALTSD contracts with Pegasus Legal Services in Albuquerque to make this possible.

RELATIONSHIP with SM 83, which seeks to recognize, honor and celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of grandparents raising grandchildren.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Taskforce would cease to exist, and opportunities for providing more services and resources to the 56,000 children in grandparent care and to the grandparents assuming that duty might be lost. In the absence of such resources, it is possible that some grandparents might have to place more children in the care of CYFD.

LAC/jle