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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Tallman/Stefanics ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/2018
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Services for Victims of Human Trafficking SM 92

ANALYST Edwards

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HM 89
 Relates to HB 53, HB 205, SB 89

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Office of the Attorney General (NMAG)

Responses Not Received From
 Crime Victims Reparation Commission

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The memorial tasks the Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC) with convening a task force on human trafficking, in collaboration with the Attorney General (NMAG) and the New Mexico Tribal Task Force on Human Trafficking, to develop strategies and policies to improve services for victims around the state.

The task force should include members with expertise in human trafficking policy development, services, and advocacy for victims and issues specifically affecting Native Americans and immigrant populations.

The task force will report on progress to the interim Health and Human Services and the Courts, Corrections and Justice committees on or before December 1, 2018 and present a final report on or before December 1, 2019.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

CVRC did not provide a response to this memorial. However, it can be assumed the bill will have an operating budget impact. The commission may have to retain a contractor or additional staff to coordinate the work of the task force if the commission does not have the available staffing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Victims of human trafficking are hidden populations that are underserved and do not normally reach out for services. In FY16, CVRC received an appropriation of \$125 thousand in Section 4 of Laws of 2015, Chapter 101, earmarked for “support, advocacy and services for victims of human trafficking.” However, the language “of human trafficking” was vetoed. Despite the veto, CVRC agreed to assist victims of human trafficking, along with domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Laws of 2016, Chapter 11, included a \$125 thousand nonreverting special appropriation for victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. With the funding received to date, CVRC has assisted 75 victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence. No funding was allocated for these specific purposes in the 2017 legislative session.

In FY18, CVRC contracted with five non-profit organizations to administer the funds in order to expedite anticipated expenses to victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. CVRC usually reimburses victims for expenses they have incurred as a result of victimization. In working with service providers, CVRC learned accessing the funds immediately was necessary for relocation, rental assistance, transportation, medical, dental, and counseling assistance.

In order to address the needs of human trafficking victims, sexual assault, and domestic violence victims, CVRC created a specialized procedure to access and administer this funding. Service providers who assist human trafficking victims are concerned that the majority of this funding will be utilized primarily by sexual assault and domestic violence victims leaving victims of human trafficking victims underserved.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicate:

HM 89 is a duplicate memorial directed to the members of the House of Representatives, requesting a formal study of ways to improve services for human trafficking victims.

Related:

HB 53 provides appropriations to the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission for providing services to human trafficking victims;

HB 205 provides for a study of shelter needs of human trafficking victims; and

SB 89, creates a fund for enforcement of the proposed Sexual Exploitation of Children Act.

SM 96 is very close to a duplicate memorial with minor differences in the purpose statement of the memorial.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

NMAG points out the third whereas clause on page one (lines 20-25) include references to Life Link in Santa Fe and the New Mexico Tribal Task Force on Human Trafficking, but fifth clause on page two (lines 8-15) only references the Tribal Task Force. It is not clear if Life Link was omitted in error.

TRE/al