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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/16
SPONSOR Rodriguez **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe Law Enforcement-Assisted Diversion **SB** 53

ANALYST Malone

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$300.0	\$300.0	\$600.0	Recurring	DFA Special Appropriations

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 53 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (LGD of DFA) for support for law enforcement assisted diversion in the city of Santa Fe.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$300 thousand appropriation in this bill is a 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 Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (LEAD) was approved by the Santa Fe City Council on January 29, 2014 and is intended to help break individual's patterns of repeated nonviolent crime driven by addiction (i.e. theft). Instead of sending minor offenders back into the criminal justice system, LEAD offers them a chance to obtain wrap around services such as housing, job training, transportation, counseling, and addiction treatment. The funding the city provides (thus far about \$300 thousand) is supplemented by Medicaid and other public assistance.

DFA notes that a cost benefit analysis conducted by the Santa Fe Community Foundation showed the LEAD program could reduce social systems cost for law enforcement, incarceration, judicial and medical costs in half, saving taxpayers close to \$1 million over a three-year period. The average cost to incarcerate a drug offender is \$41,000 per year, while the cost to treat an offender with wrap around services is only \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year.

According to the City of Santa Fe Police Department, since implementation of the program in April 2014, the LEAD program has 49 clients, none of which have been arrested for any violent felonies or property crimes. Several individuals in the program have continued to work, while others have obtained new jobs.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The DFA LGD does not have the staff to provide oversight of the LEAD program and may need to procure professional services from a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

CM/jle