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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hochman-Vigil/ Ferrary ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/19 LAST UPDATED 2/27/19 HB 80

SHORT TITLE Sexual Assault Services Funding SB _____

ANALYST Edwards

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$0.0	\$3,300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 61.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 80 makes a \$3.3 million appropriation, to be spent in FY20, to the Crime Victims Reparation Commission to fund the provision of sexual assault services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3.3 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

In FY19, the CVRC budget more than doubled compared with FY18 due to the transfer of \$2.4 million from the Department of Health (DOH) and an additional \$1 million general fund increase, both of which were for sexual assault service providers and sexual assault services. The commission uses the funds to contract with the Rape Crisis Center, the Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, and similar providers. The current FY20 recommendation as adopted by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee includes the entire \$3.4 million increase for sexual assault services in the contractual services category. The recommendation also supports

the addition of a financial specialist FTE to manage the additional funding.

If all bills currently introduced affecting CVRC were to pass, this bill included, the CVRC budget would increase an additional \$3.9 million, or 67 percent, over the current FY20 operating budget general fund level.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CVRC explains:

With the administration of these funds, CVRC requested an additional financial specialist to assist in managing the additional funding. The need is critical for sexual assault programs in New Mexico; the proposed increase of \$3.3 million for these programs will serve to ensure that victims affected by sexual violence throughout our state get services they. CVRC knows there are areas within the state that have no access to services and current programs that need additional funds in order to ensure they have the capacity to provide core services that meet and exceed national best practices.

This increased funding would provide a consistent and specialized funding stream in order to meet an increasing demand for local recovery and support services. Sexual assault programs in New Mexico have been supported in the past, but funding has been limited. CVRC has worked closely with all stakeholders, coalition members, and the administration to secure the transfer from DOH and continues to work with these groups to secure and expand funding for these critical programs and services.

The need for capacity within these agencies is critical along with prevention, education and safety programs on college campuses. Vision 21 is an initiative of the Department of Justice's Office on Victims of Crime. They proposed auditing victim services programs and identifying ways to improve them, including technological innovation. The Office on Violence Against Women continues to report that services to victims of sexual violence are often underfunded and funding is diverted to other victimizations. It is important that CVRC ensure these funds can be specifically dedicated to sexual violence so that CVRC can identify ways to improve services and create access for underserved and marginalized populations.

CVRC has been successful in administering these funds to provide core services to victims of sexual violence. These services include crisis intervention, case management, counseling and trauma informed, victim centered services for survivors of sexual violence. Through CVRC's strategic planning, the agency is aware of the landscape of services for victims of sexual violence and the gaps in services and needs within our state to meaningfully address sexual violence. New Mexico currently has 12 rape crisis service providers, which range from full service to smaller organizations that are working to develop capacity to provide these services every day, all year round, at all hours. CVRC also has 10 sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) programs. Due to the geographic size of our state, there are many areas within the state that have no access to services leaving victims of sexual violence with limited an often no choice.

The additional \$3.3 million would enhance and secure consistent and specialized funding in order to meet the increased demand to local recovery and support services. Due to deficits in sexual assault funding in our state, the victim compensation program is currently processing

some SANE examinations to offset these deficits and also process medical exams for children who report to law enforcement. This funding is critical just to ensure those specific expenses be covered.

The need for additional staff will need to be reassessed for next fiscal year. CVRC will be required to solicit non-profit agencies that provide services to sexual assault victims and CVRC will work collaboratively with New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs to ensure this funding will be to enhance services as a model national program and to provide innovative victim services programs are developed, executed and funded.

TE/sb/gb