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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Shendo ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Indian Affairs Youth Wellness Training SB 261
ANALYST Edwards

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY20 | FY21 | | |
| | \$600.0 | Recurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

No Response Received

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 261 appropriates \$600 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for youth wellness training and resources to encourage health lifestyle changes among Native American youth.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$600 thousand 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department explains:

Native Americans experience significantly higher rates of health challenges that include, but are not limited to, diabetes, obesity, alcohol and substance misuse, suicide, and mental health disorders, among other hurdles. For Native youth, these challenges can be experienced more severely than their adult counterparts.

For example, suicide is the leading cause of death for Native Americans, particularly youth. According to the New Mexico Child Fatality Review (2014), there were 51 suicides in New Mexico children in 2011-2013. The suicide rate was highest among American Indian children and among males. In 2017, the New Mexico Department of Health reported that Whites and American Indians had the highest rates of suicide 29.7 and 21.1 deaths per 100,000 persons, respectively. For American Indians, the rate was highest among those 15-24 years of age.

To combat these health challenges and empower Native youth, New Mexico's Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos and other stakeholders have turned towards Tribal youth wellness training and resource development. For example, the [Notah Begay III Foundation \(NB3\)](#) aims to improve Native American children's health "by supporting and funding Native-driven, culturally-centered programs and by providing direct opportunities for Native youth to live healthy, active lives". Like many others, NB3 believes many of these health challenges are preventable, and these types of trainings and resources are effective in doing so.

Although the IAD is not currently working in youth wellness training and resources programming, the IAD looks forward to partnering with the states Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, and urban Indian community on this issue.

IAD states, to be most effective in efforts to encourage healthy lifestyle changes among Native American youth, it may be beneficial to extend this appropriation's reversion date to FY22.

TE/rl