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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/23
BILL
SHORT TITLE Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund NUMBER Senate Bill 346
ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$40,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Relates to appropriation in the General Appropriation Act
Senate Bill 345

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill

Senate Bill 346 (SB 346) appropriates \$40 million from the general fund to the Kiki Saavedra senior dignity fund for the purposes of the fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2024 and subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of the fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The current balance of the Kiki Saavedra senior dignity fund is \$6,247,600 according to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD). During the 2020 legislative session, the Legislature created the Kiki Saavedra senior dignity fund. The fund is overseen by ALTSD to

address high-priority services for senior citizens and adults with disabilities in New Mexico, to include transportation, food insecurity, physical and behavioral health, case management, and caregiving. The Legislature should be cautious in the use of nonrecurring revenue, such as revenue from this fund, in building programs with recurring expenses. The department also requested \$40 million nonrecurring general and the LFC recommendation supports the request contingent on legislation to restructure the fund to provide for disbursements based on investment earnings through the State Investment Council.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee (HAFC) recommended \$8 million for the fund but did not require legislation to restructure the fund.

This bill relates to Senate Bill 345 (SB 345), which allows for New Mexico State Investment Council management and investment of the Kiki Saavedra senior dignity fund.

ALTSD reported:

More than 26 percent of individuals' aged 60 years and older in New Mexico have difficulty walking or climbing stairs (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, 2016-2020. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, with New Mexico Department of Health). Further, 10 percent of New Mexicans aged 18 years and older with a disability have an ambulatory difficulty (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2016-2020); this percentage is higher than the national percentage (8 percent). New Mexico is ranked 5th highest among U.S. states for poverty rate (24 percent) for persons with disabilities (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2016-2020). These vulnerable New Mexicans face geographic, economic, language, and cultural barriers in accessing the resources – such as residential accessibility ramps – they need to remain safely in their own homes.

Additionally, in New Mexico in 2021:

- 20 percent of adults (18 years and older) provide regular care or assistance to a friend or family member who has a health problem or disability.
- 26 percent and 34 percent have been providing care for longer than two and five years, respectively.
- 79 percent of adults care for family, while 14 percent care for non-relatives.
- 10 percent care for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's.
- 16 percent and 21 percent provide 20 and 40 or more hours of care per week, respectively.
- 53 percent helped another manage personal care such as giving medications, feeding, dressing, or bathing; 85 percent help another manage household tasks such as cleaning, managing money, or preparing meals.
- 10 percent of adults aged 60 years or older have difficulty living independently, for example, doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping.

In order to address some of these concerns ALTSD has used Kiki Saavedra senior dignity fund money to ensure that senior centers reopen and remain open in order to provide a variety of much-needed services to seniors across the state.

Approximately 6 percent - 21,429 New Mexicans aged 65 years or older – do not own a

vehicle (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2016-2020 5-Year Estimates, Public Use Microdata Sample). And there are 11 grocery stores per 100,000 persons; this rate is considerably lower than the U.S. rate 19 grocery stores per 100,000 persons (U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, 2020). These data suggest travel for our state's older adults to access necessary amenities and services – such as nutritious food and medical care – is potentially difficult and time-consuming due to lengthy travel distances.

KK/al/ne/mg