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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Aragon DATE TYPED: 02/23/01 HB
 SHORT TITLE: Early Intervention for Incurrigible Children SB SJM 56
ANALYST: Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	NFI				

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Development Disabilities Planning Council
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

A joint memorial resolving the following:

1. that the New Mexico Legislative Council designate an appropriate interim committee to address the issue of incorrigible children;
2. that the committee investigate the need for a program that identifies children who show evidence of negative, at-risk, antisocial or other incorrigible behavior and that supports and empowers parents and communities by using family unified prevention, intervention, law enforcement, educational initiatives and strategies; and
3. that the committee report its findings and recommendations to the second session of the 45th legislature.

Significant Issues

According to HPC, under the current Children’s Code children must be adjudicated or identified by CYFD before they and their families can get referrals for therapy, counseling, special education services, and other necessary interventions. They state that studies suggest that one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health problem that, without help, can lead to a variety of problems including behavioral ones. The sooner these children are diagnosed and interventions started, the better the chance of reducing incorrigible behavior. CYFD states there is a need to identify those youths that are posing a potential safety issue in their community before any criminal

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act is committed. Parents and communities would then have the opportunity to use family-based prevention, intervention, and educational initiatives and strategies for behavior modification.

GAC/ar