NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.

Only the most recent FIR version, excluding attachments, is available on the Intranet. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

NSOR:	Garcia	DATE TYPED:	01/21/02	HB	
SHORT TITLE	: Youth Mental Health	Advocate		SB	102
			ANAL	YST:	Belmares

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained				Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$56.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Public Defender Department (PDD) LFC Files

SUMMARY

_

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 102 appropriates \$56.0 from the general fund to support a statewide advocacy position to ensure appropriate representation for youth with developmental disabilities or mental health issues.

Significant Issues

The Public Defender Department (PDD) created a mental health unit in 1990. At that time, PDD was under the threat of lawsuit by mental health consumers and their advocates and juvenile developmental disabilities and mental health issues, placements, treatment and professional training were not included in the mental health unit. However, PDD asserts that the decreasing availability of residential treatment, day programs and other resources for juveniles has resulted in a substantial increase in juvenile mental health and developmental disabilities issues in Children's Court.

Senate Bill 102 -- Page 2

In FY01, the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition (JCEC) awarded PDD a grant for an attorney position for legal advocacy on behalf of juveniles with mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities. PDD indicates that it cannot meet the demand for those services with its current staff and resources upon expiration of the JCEC grant in early FY03 and that it would use the appropriation contained within this bill to continue the efforts of the current lost grant-funded position.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$56.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The ancillary costs and administrative implications associated with a statewide advocacy position have already been absorbed by the agency as the organization has accommodated the current grant-funded advocacy position.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill is unclear whether the funding is intended to fund a term, permanent, or contract position.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Is the intention of the bill to fund a term, permanent, or contract position?

EEB/njw