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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Maes	DATE TYPED:	01/31/02	HB	
SHORT TITLE	E: $1^{\text{st}}, 2^{\text{nd}} \& 3^{\text{rd}}$	Judicial District Staff		SB	321
			ANALY	YST:	Belmares

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$1,043.4			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Public Defender Department (PDD) LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 321 appropriates \$1,043.4 from the general fund to the Public Defender Department for the purpose of adding 20 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd judicial districts.

Significant Issues

The \$1,043.4 appropriation provided by SB 321 is for salary and benefits for added FTEs to deal with caseloads in three judicial districts. The SB 321 appropriation is distributed as follows:

- \$262.5 for three attorneys, one special agent, and one secretary for the 1st Judicial District;
- \$319.5 for four attorneys, one special agent and one secretary for the 2nd Judicial District;
- \$193.4 for two attorneys, one special agent and one legal liaison for the Bernalillo Metropolitan Court; and
- \$268.0 fro three attorneys, one special agent, and one secretary for the 3rd Judicial District.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,043.4 contained in SB 321 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In responding to SB 321, PDD indicates the three offices affected by the bill (1st, 2nd and 3rd Judicial Districts) are understaffed for workload demands. Further, PDD asserts, it has had insufficient staff to cover magistrate court initial appearances and video arraignments, which, with the increased DWI direct and indirect penalties plus harsher penalties for domestic violence cases, has become critical for PDD, the courts, and jail processing.

EB/njw:ar