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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Rodriguez DATE TYPED: 01/30/02 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Legal Aid for Domestic Abuse Cases SB 337

ANALYST: Trujillo

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$1,000.0	\$0.1	See Narrative	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act

Relates to SB190

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From:

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 190 appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to the crime victims reparation commission to provide legal assistance to individuals who are involved in domestic abuse cases.

Significant Issues

CVRC reports domestic violence victims have a great unmet need for legal assistance. The lack of assistance usually results in continuation of the domestic violence situation.

AOC reports the judiciary is supportive of funding legal services for litigants who cannot afford them. Self represented litigants often have difficulty understanding the complexities and rules in the litigation process. Legal counsel not only provides needed advocacy for the litigants but also helps the litigation process work more smoothly.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,000.0 million 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

CVRC reports the agency would need to contract with approximately five organizations to adequately cover the state. This would require developing a Request for Proposal (RFP), establishing a peer review process, awarding contracts, and conducting monitoring of the sub-grantees of these funds to insure proper use of the funds. CVRC would have to hire a grant manager to perform the required duties. CVRC indicates they cannot absorb the administrative costs.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB190. The bill changes the wording from SB190 from “domestic abuse cases” to “domestic-related cases”. This would provide broader coverage.

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