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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 2/11/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Counseling for Navajo Women & Families SB 550

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$125.0			Recurring	General Fund

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of Indian Affairs (OIA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 550 appropriates \$125,000 from the General Fund in Fiscal Year 05 to the Office of Indian Affairs for the purpose of providing counseling services for Navajo women and their families.

Significant Issues

According to a 1993 report by the U.S. Census, only 6 in 10 American Indian couples were married compared to the nation's 8 in 10. The proportion of American Indian families maintained by a female householder without a husband was also considerably larger than the national figure.

According to a report by Harvard University, the rate of crime victimization experienced by Indian women is 50% higher than that reported by black females. OIA reports that the Navajo Nation has provided limited services for Navajo women and families related to domestic violence through their Office of Navajo Women. Some non-profits who work with the Navajo Nation have also supplemented those services provided by the Office of Navajo Women.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$125.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 05 shall revert to the General Fund.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not specify what type of counseling services would be provided to Navajo women and their families with the appropriations. The OIA is assuming that it would be related to issues of domestic violence.

BD/dm