

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 02/14/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Navajo Nation Advocacy Services SB 762

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$85.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Children youth and Families (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 762 appropriates \$85 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for advocacy and counseling services for women and families who have low incomes or are subjects of domestic violence in communities of the Navajo Nation.

Significant Issues

The Indian Affairs Department contributes that American Indians experience per capita rates of violence which are more than twice those of the U.S. resident population.¹ Rates of violence in every age group are higher among American Indians than that of all races. The violent crime rate among American Indian males was 153 per 1,000 males age 1 or older, more than double that found among all males (60 per 1,000 age 12 or older). The violent crime rate for American Indian females during this period was 98 per 1,000 females, a rate higher than that found among

white females (40 per 1,000) or black females (56 per 1,000).

Rates of violent victimization for both males and females are higher among American Indians than for all races. The rate of violent crime experienced by American Indian women is nearly 50% higher than that reported by black females. Nearly a third of all American Indian victims of violence are between ages 18 and 24. This group of American Indians experienced the highest per capita rate of violence of any racial group considered by age--about 1 violent crime for every 4 persons of this age.

SB 762 would address the serious social problem of domestic violence occurring in tribal communities in New Mexico. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women ages 15 to 44. Unfortunately, some of the Navajo Nation's traditional values of equality and harmony have broken down, causing an increase in family violence. Navajo women have increasingly been plagued by domestic violence and in response, in 1993, the Navajo Nation enacted the Domestic Abuse Prevention Act. Poverty and lack of infrastructure and social services exacerbate the problems that Navajo women face when trying to leave violence in their homes. SB 762 would provide needed funding for advocacy and counseling services to assist these Navajo women and families.

Human Services contributes that in general, counseling services are part of the Medicaid benefit package and are available to Medicaid-enrollees. Care coordination is an additional service provided by the Salud! Managed Care Organizations to Salud! enrollees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$85 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What is the definition of low income?

MW/sb