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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/07

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HB 216

SHORT TITLE Domestic Violence Victim Substitute Address SB _____

ANALYST Wilson

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
	Minimal		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

No Response Received From
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 116 allows victims of domestic violence or the victim's representative, as defined in §31-26-3 (NMSA 1978), to create a substitute address through the SOS when there

is “good reason to believe that a victim’s safety is at risk.”

The SOS will act as an agent for the victim for the purpose of forwarding mail, and will create an application that includes:

- forwarding mailing address and telephone number for the victim,
- signature of the victim or victim’s representative.

The SOS will maintain a confidential record of these applications, and will forward all mail to the new mailing address.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The SOS will collect a \$75 application fee which may be waived if the victim is indigent.

It is unlikely that the SOS will collect enough revenue to offset administrative charges.

There will be a minimal administrative cost for statewide update, distribution and documentation of statutory changes. Courts will need to inform victim’s of domestic violence that this option is available to them.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

All mail to participants in this program will have to be forwarded, and will slow the process of contacting these persons. This could delay notice of hearings or other court proceedings.

Since a person’s address will be the SOS office in Santa Fe, these individuals will be identified as Santa Fe county residents. They could be summoned for jury duty in Santa Fe County, even though their physical residence will probably be in another county. There may be a need for automation funding to identify persons with a substitute address.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The SOS must create an application and act as agent for the domestic abuse victim. The SOS should be able to handle the requirements of this bill as part of its regular responsibilities.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Will the provisions of this bill exclude some persons from serving as jurors?

Will the physical address and the substitute address need to be coordinated so that persons are not precluded from voting in the correct precinct?

DW/nt