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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Chasey ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/07  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 526  
SHORT TITLE Gender-Specific Correctional Training Program SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Geisler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: HB 527

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Commission on the Status of Women  
Department of Health (DOH)  
Department of Corrections (DC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 526 would appropriate \$50,000 to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for developing best practices, curriculum and training for gender-specific programs in public and private correctional facilities for personnel serving incarcerated women and girls. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation in HB 526 is not contained in the executive budget request.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Corrections notes that gender-specific programming may ultimately lead to better programming for female offenders, and thus lower recidivism rates. In addition, the Department has already consulted with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) about gender-based programming.

The females at the New Mexico Women’s Correctional Facility (NMWCF) have already been receiving gender specific programming. A formal curriculum has been developed and is waiting to be implemented at the Camino Nuevo Correctional Center as soon as an amendment to the Project Impact Program Contract has been completed. NIC previously provided two technical assistants to review the programming available to females at both female facilities. Both indicated that they were impressed with the gender specific programming currently provided to incarcerated females at NMWCF. Corrections is awaiting a NIC report (containing recommendations for additional gender-specific programming) that may be received within the next few months.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CSW anticipates one staff member would be required to research best practices, determine and write the curriculum, “test” the curriculum with a relevant population, and adjust the curriculum accordingly. Coordination and communication with Corrections and CYFD personnel/trainers to account for relevant policy-related information into the curriculum.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

HB 526 relates to HB 527 which appropriates \$50.0 thousand to New Mexico Sentencing Commission to study gender specific probation and parole models.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DOH notes that gender-specific programming refers to services developed and/or targeted to either males or females. Research has found that girls' risks for delinquency are amplified by the presence of: sexual and/or physical abuse, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, poor academic performance, and mental health needs. To strengthen their resistance against delinquency, girls need physical and emotional security, positive female role models, and a sense of belonging and competency that may be different from what boys need.

Proponents of gender-specific programming for girls argue that programs developed for boys do not seem to work for girls. Evaluations of programs for girls are increasing in number but are still relatively uncommon. Continued research is important, as girls represent a growing number of those involved in juvenile justice. Some recommendations and principles for program development have emerged from literature. These include:

- tailoring programs to the unique needs of girls;
- involving girls in service decisions;
- using female staff;
- connecting girls with mentors;
- providing staff training on gender-specific programming;
- addressing the needs of pregnant/ parenting girls;
- defining gender-specific programming;
- using local data to develop approaches and considering issues with rural jurisdictions.