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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/07

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE School Bus Rides for Certain TANF Families SB 682

ANALYST Weber

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 682 (SB 682) adds a new section of the Public School Code to allow qualifying parents who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to ride school buses (when space is available) with their school enrolled child who rides the bus to school if they:

1. need transportation to work or to another point for work purposes when they have no other means of transportation; and
2. sign a waiver of liability against the school district and school bus contractor; and
3. meet other qualifications as determined by rules of the department

The bus driver cannot change the school bus route to accommodate the TANF parent but shall stop along the route to allow the parent to disembark at the point along the school bus route when it is safe.

SB 682 clarifies that this transportation is not general public transportation as provided for in the Emergency Transportation Act.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Neither HSD or PED report an anticipated fiscal impact. However, it is not defined what entity is to initiate and maintain the required administrative tasks.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HSD offers the following general information about the TANF program.

The TANF program is administered by HSD. The New Mexico Works (NMW) Act establishes the NMW TANF program in NM. HSD determines eligibility for TANF cash assistance and HSD contracts for work program & support services. Transportation is often a significant barrier to employment for many TANF participants. Currently HSD contracts for TANF transportation services with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the NMW contractors.

DOT uses limited TANF funds as a match for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. This allows JARC to provide rides to TANF participants. In addition, JARC funds can also be used for low-income individuals with income under 150% of poverty, but HSD does not provide funding for these individuals. The agreement between DOT and HSD includes a demand-response bus/van services and a fixed route bus/van service for TANF participants. Because of limited match funding, DOT has significantly reduced the service area in NM.

JARC Coverage:

County	NMDOT District	Subgrantee	# of Vehicles	FY 04-05 Ridership
Bernalillo	3	*ABQ Ride	N/A	8,017
	3	Go-For's	4	2,854
Chaves	2	City of Roswell	2	7,282
Colfax	4	Village of Angel Fire	2	2,159
	4	County of Colfax	2	4,810
Curry	2	City of Clovis	3	4,119
De Baca	2	Ft. Sumner Housing Authority	4	11,889
Doña Ana	1	Ben Archer	11	21,118
Eddy	2	City of Carlsbad	3	10,006
Grant	1	Grant County	5	4,156
McKinley	6	Na'nizhoozhi Center, Inc.	4	76,848
	6	Zuni Entrepreneurial Enterprises	2	15,837
Otero	2	Zia Therapy Center, Inc.	3	7,324
Rio Arriba	5	**Rio Arriba County	8***	6,110
San Miguel	4	City of Las Vegas	2	2,431
Sandoval	6	Village of Cuba	2	2,482
Santa Fe	5	****Santa Fe Trails	21 FR/2DR	34,254
Sierra	1	South Central COG	5	12,688
Taos	5	Town of Taos	2	644
	5	Village of Questa	2	1,649
Valencia	3	Village of Los Lunas	4	3,311
<b>Total</b>				<b>239,546</b>

The NMW program through the NMW contractor provides the following transportation assistance:

1. Operation of personal vehicles
  - a. Driver Education
  - b. License Fee
  - c. Registration
  - d. Inspection tags
  - e. Insurance

- f. Mileage allowance
  - g. Gas Vouchers
  - h. Maintenance/Repairs
  - i. Parking Fees
  - j. Bike & helmet purchase
  - k. Facilitation of the donation and/or repair of previously owned or reconditioned vehicles
2. Public/Private transit fees that are not covered under the HSD/DOT Agreement
- a. Tokens, passes, vouchers, tickets, or slots
  - b. Car/Van pool fees
  - c. Taxies
  - d. Agency van purchase and/or lease

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

How will the children be protected from unknown adults riding a school bus with children? There is a section requiring the TANF parent to sign a waiver apparently to protect the school district and bus contractor from liability. However, consideration should be given to protecting the children through a mandated background check. Who will pay for this background check and administer the program?

MW/mt