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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/08

SPONSOR Gutierrez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 175

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana Court Advocates Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST C. Sanchez

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 175 appropriates \$100,000 in recurring general funds to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for court appointed special advocates programs in Dona Aña County. Court appointed special advocates programs (or CASA programs) train lay volunteers to advocate for children in abuse and neglect cases and to report on their best interests to the judges in those cases.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$100,000 will be distributed from the general fund directly to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Additional Funding would help the program train more volunteers and serve more children who have been abused or neglected.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The courts are participating in performance-based budgeting. It is unknown if enactment of this bill would impact performance measures as they relate to judicial budgeting and/or performance.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The AOC would absorb any administrative impacts as a result of the appropriation.

CS/mt