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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/21/08

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Truchas Pre-Kindergarten Resources SB 252

ANALYST Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: The executive recommendation for CYFD included an increase of \$4.6 million to expand pre-kindergarten statewide.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 252 appropriates fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for FY09 to contract with a preschool provider in Truchas to provide a pre-kindergarten program that is combined with a preschool program for two-, three-, and five year old children.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The executive recommendation for CYFD included an increase of \$4.6 million to expand pre-kindergarten statewide.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Pre-kindergarten programs receiving funding through either the CYFD or PED must meet requirements established by the New Mexico Pre-Kindergarten Act. The New Mexico Pre-Kindergarten Act requires the departments to issue a Request for Proposal for pre-kindergarten services to serve eligible children who turn four years old before September 1. An eligible entity must submit a successful proposal that has been reviewed by a review team of early childhood professionals. Contracts are offered to an entity after the funding request is approved by the Secretary of CYFD or Secretary of PED. The PED accepts and evaluates proposals from school districts, including charter schools and Regional Education Centers, for funding pre-kindergarten programs and the CYFD accepts and evaluates programs from an eligible provider (private child care and preschool providers, Head Start programs, BIA/BIE schools, tribal entities, etc.) for the same purpose. Eligible provider means a person licensed by CYFD that provides early childhood developmental readiness services or preschool special education, or is a public school, tribal program or Head Start program.

Pre-kindergarten services are provided by public schools or eligible providers on a per-child reimbursement rate in communities with the highest percentage of elementary schools that are designated as Title I schools and that serve the highest percentage of elementary students who are not meeting the proficiency component required for calculating adequate yearly progress.

SB 252 is requesting funding to provide a pre-kindergarten program that is combined with a preschool program for two, three, and five-year-olds. State pre-kindergarten funding is specifically for eligible children who turn four years old before September 1. State funded pre-kindergarten programs must meet PreK program standards, implement the required child assessment system based on child outcomes/indicators, participate in statewide professional development and trainings, use developmentally appropriate curriculum and learning materials, implement a parent engagement program and attend required coordinator meetings.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This program ties directly to the Governor's Policy Initiative, *Healthy New Mexico Task 2.6 – Improve Access and Quality of Child Care*. CYFD has performance measures on improving access to quality pre-kindergarten programs. This appropriation is consistent with those performance measures.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This initiative would have to be managed with existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: The executive recommendation for CYFD included an increase of \$4.6 million to expand pre-kindergarten statewide.

If SB 252 is enacted, it will conflict with the Pre-Kindergarten Act, which established specific rules and regulations for providing funding for pre-kindergarten programs in New Mexico.

The language in the bill identifies only two-, three-, and five-year old children. The current pre-

kindergarten program administered by CYFD and PED is for four year old children and this bill does not mention four year olds.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Quality pre-kindergarten and preschool programs can have a significant positive effect on children's ultimate academic success. The rural community of Truchas is geographically isolated, resulting in a scarcity of early childhood programs from which parents may choose. Currently, Head Start services are an option for those families in Truchas who meet the Head Start income guidelines. If enacted, this bill would provide a local/community-based preschool program for Truchas children.

ALTERNATIVES

Unless there is specific reason to exclude four year olds, the sponsor of the bill might want to add them.

DL/bb