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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/09

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 220

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Sex Assault Nurse Examiner SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$251.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSO)  
 Attorney General (AG)  
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 220, Albuquerque Sex Assault Nurse Examiner, appropriates \$251 thousand from the general fund to DOH for the purpose of contracting with a not-for-profit organization in Albuquerque providing sexual assault nurse examiners as follows:

- A. \$35 thousand to pay nurses for on-call duty; and
- B. \$216 thousand to provide medical forensic examinations to victims of domestic violence.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$251 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The LFC submitted a balanced general fund appropriation recommendation for fiscal year 2010. Any additional general fund expenditures appropriated by the Legislature must be off-set by an equal amount from the appropriation recommendation.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

DOH reports there were 17,487 victims of domestic violence in 2007, many of which included sexual assault. Approximately 2,500 were observed by children and 48 percent of these children were abused and four percent were sexually abused. HPC adds from a report from the National Coalition Against Domestic violence that one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her life.

DOH states this bill proposes to use Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) for sexual assault examinations. These individuals are registered nurses able to provide medical care and detailed forensic examination. SANE programs have been addressing the inadequacy of the traditional model for sexual assault medical evidentiary collection for sexual assault victims. DOH assesses that victims are not as retraumatized when examined by trained SANE nurses compared to being examined in an emergency room.

ALTSD concurs that when victims of sexual assault are examined in emergency rooms it is done by health care professionals not specifically trained in the collection of medical forensic evidence or the emotional support needed by the victims.

The AG states that according to the director of Albuquerque SANE, Teresa D'Anza, they perform about 500 medical forensic examinations of victims of sexual assault per year; if this bill is enacted, an additional 720 victims could receive services.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

According to AG, SANE on-call nurses respond to both physical and sexual assault and it is unclear if the funding can be used for both services.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Additional assault examinations will not be funded by the state.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Other than state general fund, are there revenue sources that can expand the existing SANE services?

GAC/mt