Bill Number: SB 200   **51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

Tracking Number: .191557.1

Short Title: Juvenile & Adult Restorative Justice Program

Sponsor(s): Senator Howie C. Morales

Analyst: James Ball   **Date: February 5, 2013**

Bill Summary:

SB 200 makes an appropriation to provide juvenile and adult offender restorative justice services in the Sixth Judicial District, including:

- mediation;
- community conferencing; and
- justice circles.

Fiscal Impact:

$270,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Sixth Judicial District[1] for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), the Sixth Judicial District has received general fund appropriations since 2005 for juvenile and adult restorative justice services in the three counties in its jurisdiction. The district currently has $245,800 in its base budget for this purpose and distributes $100,000 to Luna County, $100,000 to Grant County, and $45,000 to Hidalgo County, annually. The counties use those funds for mediation, community conferencing, and justice circles for adult and juvenile offenders.

Background:

According to the website of Restorative Justice New Mexico, restorative justice programs concentrate on the harm done in particular cases rather than laws or rules broken and seek to repair and compensate victims rather than punish offenders for crimes committed. Offenders are held accountable and encouraged to take responsibility for their actions. Victims have the opportunity to ask questions of the offender and express how they have been affected by the offense. Offenders are more likely to fulfill restitutions if they have been part of the process and face their victims directly in an atmosphere of mediation and discussion.

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[1] The Sixth Judicial District is located in Silver City, New Mexico.

Committee Referrals:

SPAC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 296 *Expand Restorative Justice Services*