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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/09/13

SPONSOR Louis LAST UPDATED _____ HB 336

SHORT TITLE Homeless & Runaway Youth Transitional Living SB _____

ANALYST Boerner

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY13 | FY14 | | |
| | \$200.0 | Recurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates entirely SB288 Homeless & Runaway Youth Transitional Living

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

This bill appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to the DFA to provide a transitional living program in Bernalillo County for children aging out of foster care and homeless and runaway youth age 16 to 21 years old.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 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 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

The DFA reports no significant fiscal impact to the Local Government Division in the administration of appropriation in this bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The DFA notes that federal funding for services for homeless youth and those aging out of foster care was lost in 2013. Currently, funding for such services comes only from Optum Health (Medicaid reimbursement) for four months of services per client. As a result, services have been significantly cut back.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The DFA points out that in Bernalillo County, one program providing such services offers temporary shelter, board, living skills education, behavioral health services, and social services to children who are aging out of foster care, and to homeless and runaway youth who are sixteen to twenty-one years old. The organization operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year in a staff-supervised apartment setting. Services are provided for up to 70 clients from 6 months to one year. One of the main goals of the program is to encourage post secondary education helping to make clients independent and self sufficient.

Bernalillo County would act as the fiscal agent for the appropriation, and would be required to follow the procurement code, including issuing an RFP for the services.

The CYFD provided the following background and statistical information regarding homeless youth in Bernalillo County:

- Albuquerque Public Schools reports 7,000 youth, age eighteen and younger, are homeless. Many of these homeless youth have been abused, neglected, and exploited, with some experiencing severe emotional problems. Some are beginning to run into trouble with the juvenile justice system.
- The Albuquerque Police Department reports receiving on average of 1,300 calls regarding missing or runaway youth per year.
- Each year approximately 400 youth in New Mexico transition from either the foster care system or Juvenile Justice Services.
- In a 2011 study of youth who have aged out of foster care, 50 percent continue to struggle with having enough to eat and pay rent; 40 percent of young males are unemployed; 66 percent of young women become pregnant; 20 percent continue to be homeless; and 40 percent by age 23, do not have a G.E.D. or diploma.
- Studies show that stable housing supports transition age youth with achieving other important life goals including improved physical and behavioral health, education, job training and employment thus increasing their self-sufficiency and allowing them to become part of their community.

CEB/blm