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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Kane **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/12/13 **LAST UPDATED** 02/27/13 **HB** 374/aHJC  
**SHORT TITLE** Safe Haven for Infants Site Definition **SB** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ANALYST** Aledo-Sandoval

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Minimal			N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HJC Amendment

The House Judiciary Committee amendment to House Bill 374 deletes the phrase "an authorized representative" and replaces it with "staff".

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 374 (HB 374) expands the Safe Haven for Infants Act to include fire stations and law enforcement agencies as appropriate "Safe Havens".

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) indicates that there is no fiscal impact expected for implementing HB 374 and that any increase in referrals would be absorbed by existing resources.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) notes that there may be costs associated with staffing the safe haven sites with authorized representatives; however, as both fire and law enforcement has numerous personnel with emergency medical training, the cost is likely to be minimal.

A public information campaign may be necessary to bring awareness to the expanded safe haven sites.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Safe Haven for Infants Act as originally written only includes hospitals as safe havens, which are not widely available in rural New Mexico.

The AGO notes that by expanding the definition of safe haven to include law enforcement agencies and fire departments, the number of locations where an infant could be safely placed in the care of state officials will be increased.

According to the CYFD, when parents in need are able to use this service in additional areas, children are more likely to get the care they need more quickly. The CYFD adds that the public may be confused or uncertain as to when there may be an authorized representative on-site.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) highlights that the statute, in requiring a safe haven site to develop procedures for appropriate staff to accept and provide necessary medical services to both an infant left at a safe haven site and the person leaving the infant, if necessary, assumes that there will always be someone with appropriate medical training at both a fire station and a law enforcement agency.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The AOC points out that HB 374 defines a safe haven site as an appropriate site that has an authorized representative on site at the time an infant is left at such site, but the Act does not define what is meant by “authorized representative.”

MAS/svb