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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/21/13

SPONSOR Ezzell LAST UPDATED _____ HB 552

SHORT TITLE Dexter Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program SB _____

ANALYST Boerner

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$80.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 552 appropriates \$80 thousand dollars from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the DFA for a therapeutic horseback riding program in the town of Dexter to provide physical cognitive and behavioral therapy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$80 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Currently, the town of Dexter has one major provider of such services which has been in operation for 20 years. It is a non-profit organization and an affiliate of the North American Riding for Handicap Association. Clients are severely disabled, abused, and neglected children and young adults from around Eddy and Chaves Counties. Ages of clients are from two years old to about thirty years of age. The main purpose of the therapeutic horseback program is to

help children and young adults learn multi-tasks to achieve daily living skills. The program is currently trying to work with clients who have autism. Each student has three trainers attending them, one on each side of the horse, and a lead person. Lessons are both private and group. Referrals are made from the surrounding independent school districts as well as the HSD.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If this bill is enacted, the DFA would enter into an agreement with the town of Dexter, and Dexter would procure services for a therapeutic horseback riding program.

ALTERNATIVES

This appropriation should go through the Children, Youth and Families Department or the HSD, which have greater expertise in the area of therapeutic treatment for those suffering from abuse and neglect.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this legislation is not enacted, the town of Dexter will not have additional funding for a therapeutic horseback riding program.

CEB/svb:blm