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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/13

SPONSOR Beffort LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Children Opportunities and Overmedication SJM 44

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 44 requests the Legislative Health and Human Services committee, or an appropriate subcommittee thereof, to consider (1) the effects of overmedication of psychotropic drugs on children's health in the state and (2) how state law may be changed to encourage an increase in opportunities for children to be active and maintain sound mental and physical health without medication through athletic, creative, social and intellectual activities in their schools, homes and communities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HM 44 points to a study published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* that reports that, since 1993, the rate of antipsychotic psychiatric drugs prescribed to children has increased by a factor of nearly eight, with much of the prescribing being for “off-label” uses that the federal government has not specifically approved.

The memorial also expresses concern that, since individuals with regular access to health care are more likely to have used prescription drugs, expected increased access to health coverage may lead to a higher risk that children will receive medication to correct behavior that is not actually illness but is merely a reflection of normal childhood energy levels, curiosity and reactions to boredom.

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The CYFD notes that psychotropic medication prescribing practices for children is and has been a concern of CYFD and other stakeholders for a number of years. The statewide single entity OptumHealth has a group working on this issue, as well as a joint CYFD / UNM study to develop a NM State Plan for use of psychotropic medication with children in custody. The CYFD adds that the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative Quality group is also examining this issue.

KC/blm