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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/09/13

SPONSOR Lopez/Tripp LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Uniform Access to Children's Services SJM 51

ANALYST Chabot

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

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$20.0		\$20.0	Nonrecurring	Operating Budgets

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 51 resolves that the Secretary of CYFD reconvene the steering committee created by House Joint Memorial 21 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Legislature to develop a detailed plan to accomplish the goals of the Children's Code and have those goals met equally across the state. Further local juvenile justice boards are asked to partner with OptumHealth New Mexico to develop intake screening processes for first-time offenders with behavioral health needs and provide the courts community-based supervision alternatives emphasizing improving behavioral health. In addition, especially in rural area, the Legislature should consider funding the New Mexico gang task force and appropriations to the family and youth resource and juvenile continuum grant funds. The report is to be made to the appropriate interim Legislative committees by December 1, 2013.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no funding for this memorial and participants will have to pay their own expenses. CYFD will have to absorb all administrative costs associated with the memorial. LFC estimates costs will approximate \$20 thousand spent between the participating agencies.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

CYFD provides the following:

The findings from the 2012 HJM 21, suggest that the aim of the Children’s Code was not being followed in that access to relevant services is neither guaranteed nor equal across geographic boundaries. It found that school related issues often lead to the arrest and/or referral to the local juvenile justice system; that diversion programs, especially in the schools, increase public safety while holding youth accountable and those tribes need support in handling new juvenile justice issues and in implementing specific provisions of the Code.

The 2012 HJM 21 steering committee recommended that schools exercise alternatives to suspension, expulsion and referral to juvenile justice agencies; that legislature attempt to standardize guidelines for responding to misbehavior , curtail the use of zero tolerance policies and impose training to school resource officers for certification. It was further recommended that every youth be screened for risk factors related to mental health. The committee recommended more community based supervision alternatives and that the NM Gang Task Force’s community-based services receive more funding. It was also recommended that there be more training and resources for tribes to address delinquency and that the tribes enter into intergovernmental agreements that create user-friendly process for the youth and families to access services. Finally, it was recommended that the legislature support the reinstatement of appropriations to the family and youth resources fund and the continuum grant fund for the provision of cost-effective services in rural areas.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD has performance measures related to juveniles and reducing the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

CYFD adds the following consideration:

Page 3, section C, lines 10 through 16, suggest that every youth be screened as early as possible for risk factors related to mental, emotional and behavioral disorders; that school-based health centers participate in the screening; and that state youth services agencies partner with local juvenile justice boards to develop an intake screening process for first-time offenders who exhibit high behavioral health needs. This approach has the potential to expand the number of low-level Juvenile Justice cases which are currently handled through effective diversion programs, and subsequently increase the cases sent for formal dispositions.