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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/27/14
LAST UPDATED 01/28/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE County and Tribal Early Childhood Services **SB** 68

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$975.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Companion to HB 80, County and Tribal Community Health Needs.

SB 68 relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act of \$195 thousand to the Department of Health for statewide health councils.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 68 appropriates \$975 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for the creation and operation of early childhood services committees within county and tribal health councils.

The councils will develop an online portal to facilitate primary care referral of at-risk children to early childhood and family support services. Other services the committees are charged with include:

1. Conduct an annual “gap analysis”;
2. Conduct early childhood service training;
3. Collect and share data resources;
4. Develop annual need assessments; and

5. Conduct campaigns on the prevention of child maltreatment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$975 thousand contained in SB 68 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

SB 68 relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act of \$195 thousand to the DOH for statewide health councils.

The LFC FY15 budget recommendations for the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), Public Education Department (PED) and DOH include an additional \$34.5 million for early childhood programs and services.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD indicates the expansion of adequate early childhood services into the rural and tribal areas of New Mexico can have a significant positive effect on long-term outcomes in those communities.

DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 68 relates to HB 80, which would appropriate funds for basic infrastructure and staffing for the Health Councils to create and operate early childhood services committees.

PED indicates there is a potential duplication of efforts of the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force and the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) with the proposed early childhood services committees that will be created if SB 68 is enacted.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

PED indicates the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) created by the Early Care and Education Act has recommended the formation of early childhood councils across the state as part of its strategic plan. However, SB 68 does not specify the ongoing relationship and accountability (e.g. reports, plans, data, and analysis) between the proposed county and tribal early childhood councils and the ELAC.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH indicates the following regarding early childhood services in New Mexico.

- The 2012 Kids Count report ranked New Mexico 50th in the nation for child well being.
- In 2010, New Mexico witnessed a 12.1 percent increase in child abuse over the previous year. (Source: New Mexico's Children 2012, Child Welfare League of America). More than one-third of victims referred to CYFD were younger than 5 years old.
- Statistics released by the US Department of Health and Human Services listed New

Mexico as second in the country of states where the most children die from abuse. (<http://www.koat.com/news/new-mexico/albuquerque/New-Mexico-ranks-second-in-child-abuse-deaths-in-2010/-/9153728/19762270/-/13er9sl/-/index.html>)

- Many of these deaths could have been prevented by evidence-based interventions including early childhood home visiting to at-risk families, not just those of first-born infants, increased education for parents and potential parents on safety, including shaken baby syndrome, safe sleep, and supervision needs of small children. (Source: NM Child Death Review Annual Report, 2012).
- The current upheaval in the behavioral health system has destabilized the care of our state's most fragile families, increasing the likelihood of repeated trauma.
- The Pew-MacArthur "Results First Initiative" is studying return on investment of some New Mexico programs. Its report to the LFC in May 20, 2013 detailed the tangible costs of child abuse and neglect, including its links to other adverse outcomes like crime, substance abuse, poor educational outcomes, and depression. Currently, no child abuse prevention plan or system exists in the state. The Initiative also calls for greater use of evidence-based programs for children.

ALTERNATIVES

PED and DOH indicate:

- In 2013, HJM 19 created the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force and directed the task force to develop a comprehensive, coordinated, action oriented plan to improve outcomes for at-risk young children in New Mexico. The task force was charged to recommend ways to improve collaboration among early childhood development stakeholders, develop a system to identify un-served and under-served at-risk infants and young children, develop a mental health plan and process for infants and children up to age eight, identify how the early childhood system can be used for child abuse prevention, and promote evidence-based community early childhood programs in the state by establishing a link to state data for early childhood research. HJM 19 requested the University of New Mexico's Health Services Center Office of Community Health to coordinate and administer the task force with the Legislative Council Services. The task force will report to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee in November 2013.
- The Early Care and Education Act (SB 120) passed during the 2011 Legislature, created the state Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). The task of the ELAC is to lead the development or enhancement of a high-quality, comprehensive system of early childhood development and care that ensures statewide coordination and coordination and collaboration among the wide range of state early childhood programs and services, including child care, Early Head Start, Head Start, federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act preschool programs, infants and families and pre-kindergarten programs. Specifically, ELAC must ensure effect collaboration with state and local child welfare programs and early childhood health and behavioral health programs.