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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/14

SPONSOR Candelaria & Smith, JE LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Carlos Vigil Memorial Act & Prevent Bullying SB 293

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$200.0		\$200.0	Nonrecurring	Eradicate Bullying Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

No Response

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 293 creates the Eradicate Bullying Fund, appropriates \$200 thousand to that fund, and creates the Carlos Vigil Memorial Board to review grant applications and distribute awards to public agencies, schools, or non-profit private entities to provide services to prevent, resolve, and eradicate bullying. The bill tasks the board with promulgating rules to govern the acceptance, evaluation, and prioritization of applications for grants, including applicant qualifications and the format and procedure for grant applications.

The board shall consist of five voting members who, together, have diverse experience and expertise in administering or providing anti-bullying or suicide prevention services, counseling, professional development workshops, or public health services. Four board members are to be appointed by the legislative leadership of both majority and minority parties (the Senate president pro tempore and minority leader and the House speaker and minority leader) and the governor shall appoint one board member from the Department of Health Staff. Terms are limited at two years and the bill does not limit the number of terms that a member may serve. When vacancies arise, the governor shall appoint new members for the remainder of the unexpired term.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill's \$200 thousand appropriation is a nonrecurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to StopBullying.gov, a government website managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the effects of bullying include impacts on mental health and substance abuse. Victims of bullying are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, health complaints, and decreased academic achievement. Bullies are more likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs in adolescence and as adults, get into fights, vandalize property, drop out of school, and abuse romantic partners, spouses, or children as adults.

JA/ds