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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/08/14
LAST UPDATED 02/12/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Guadalupe County Early Childhood Programs **SB** 298

ANALYST Kludt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 298 appropriates \$50.0 thousand from the general fund to Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to improve and expand early childhood education programs in Guadalupe County in Anton Chico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$50.0 thousand from the general fund to DFA to improve and expand early childhood education programs in Guadalupe County in Anton Chico. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Guadalupe County has been identified as an Early Childhood Investment Zone by CYFD and the DOH, based on 2010 data that indicates that children in Guadalupe County are significantly at risk (Guadalupe County ranks 7th when ranking New Mexico Counties for the degree of risk).

According to CYFD, although the number of children is relatively small, Guadalupe County has limited resources for very young children and their families – especially in the rural areas of the County.

The Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) was formed to coordinate a state early childhood care and education system in New Mexico. The ELAC has helped determine early childhood investment zones that were included in the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. Santa Rosa and Vaughn school districts, which are within Guadalupe County, are designated as early childhood investment zones. Resources are therefore being provided to assist the community to build an early childhood infrastructure that enables them to be able to apply for state and Federal early childhood grants.

This bill makes appropriations to the local Government Division of DFA for early childhood education programs. However early childhood care and education programs are administered by CYFD (PreK, childcare, and home visiting) Public Education Department (PreK and Preschool Special education) and DOH (Family Infant Toddler Program). Additionally, this bill does not specify whether the funding is for all early childhood education programs or for a specific program (e.g., PreK; childcare home visiting or Family Infant Toddler Program). This bill could be amended to appropriate the funding to CYFD which already maintains programming and the technical expertise to support this bill.

According to the DOH, early intervention services provided under the DOH Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program are provided by agencies under a contract with the department. Contracts are awarded based on a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) in accordance with the state Procurement Code.

The Local Government Division of DFA stated the agency would adhere to all applicable state laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines, including but not limited to the Procurement Code in accordance with this bill. The State Procurement Code procurement process would need to be followed for contracts over \$50 thousand to participate in a formal RFP process.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures related to early childhood programs which may be positively affected by this bill.

DFA reported the agency may need to increase its operating budget and FTE to carry out the proposed activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DFA reported the agency does not have the capacity or expertise and would additional FTE or training for staff in bilingual early education curriculum laws and regulations. The agency also stated that DFA would also have to create regulations for oversight responsibilities; produce updates and report to other regulatory agencies; report on bilingual early education measures; and staff would also need to be out of the office on a regular basis to conduct technical assistance and to assist in implementation of bilingual early childhood program intake system.

RELATIONSHIP

SB 298 relates to:

- HM 13 and SM 5, which request the University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center to reconvene the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force;
- SB 68, which proposes to appropriate \$975,000 to DOH to fund the creation and operation of early childhood services committees within county and tribal health councils;
- SB 66, which would amend the service definition for three types of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Services approved by CYFD, Department of Human Services (HSD) and the Interagency Behavioral Health Collaborative and provides \$2.0 million of state general fund for the provision of these services;
- SB 155, which would appropriate \$300,000 to CYFD for a demonstration project to provide incentives to promote the retention of qualified teachers in early childhood education programs (birth through age 5); and,
- HJM 17, which would request the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), in cooperation with the PED, CYFD, and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), study the feasibility of using senior citizens to assist with providing early childhood education for preschoolers.
- SB 259 which makes an appropriation to a variety of early childhood initiatives.

ALTERNATIVES

This bill could be amended to appropriate the funding to CYFD which already maintains programming and the technical expertise to support this bill.

KK/ds:jl