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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/15

SPONSOR Stapleton LAST UPDATED _____ HM 8

SHORT TITLE Resources for Grandparents Raising Children SB _____

ANALYST Klundt

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD)

Responses Not Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

House memorial 8 requires that a task force be convened to study and make policy recommendations to expand the availability of resources and assistance for grandparents raising grandchildren. The task force shall be coordinated by the Human Services Department (HSD), Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), and the Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD). Each of these departments is required to provide staff support to the task force. The task force will report its finding and recommendations to the legislative Health and Human Services committee and the Legislative Finance Committee no later than November 2015.

The task force shall include members who represent New Mexico Voices for Children, Pegasus Legal Services for Children, the New Mexico Coalition of Education Leaders, court appointed special advocates for children, the New Mexico Parent-Teacher Association, Parents Reaching Out, the American Association of Retired Persons, and Las Cumbres Community Services. The task force shall also have two members from the general public.

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The task force study shall include recommendations for policy changes that could be implemented in order to expand the availability of resources and assistance to grandparents raising grandparents, including financial resources, legal services, food and housing assistance, and programs related to medical care, child care, transportation and education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation attached to this memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 56,690 children in New Mexico who live in homes where grandparents are responsible for them and are the primary caregivers. Of those children, 9,278 have no parents present in the home, meaning that grandparents are the sole caregivers for the children.

While this poses a significant concern, CYFD does not have oversight of grandchildren raised by grandparents and CYFD does not administer most of the programs that would be impacted by the study. While the Protective Services Division of CYFD does license grandparents who are providing foster care to grandchildren, this is a very small number of those children being raised by grandparents. Similarly, while there are grandparents who qualify for child care subsidy for their grandchildren, this is a small percentage of the children qualifying for subsidy through CYFD.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The ALTSD reports this memorial will require participating agencies to provide staff for fiscal and administrative support using existing resources.

Support for CYFD's involvement in this memorial will be absorbed by existing resources. For comparison, CYFD's development of the report in response to a related 2014 memorial, to which one staff was assigned, used approximately 80 hours.

RELATIONSHIP

A similar memorial was passed and a study of existing resources was conducted by CYFD for the 2014 legislative session. CYFD presented its report to the interim LHHS committee in November 2014.

KK/bb