

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE  
LAST UPDATED

SPONSOR Pino 02/07/15 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Create Office of Peacebuilding SB 294

ANALYST Sanogo

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |         | Recurring<br>or Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY15          | FY16    |                              |                  |
|               | \$500.0 | Recurring                    | General Fund     |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

General Services Department (GSD)  
Public Education Department (PED)  
State Personnel Office (SPO)  
Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

SB 294 would create the Office of Peacebuilding, administratively attached to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). The office would promote the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques to help curtail violence in New Mexico. The office will consist of a citizen peacebuilding advisory council and a director. The director will be appointed by the governor and approved by the senate and must possess successful administrative experience and at least 80 hours of training in ADR. The director will be responsible for the development and dissemination of curriculum.

The citizen peacebuilding advisory council includes the director and 11 members who are responsible for recommending and implementing peace-related policies, an annual report and promoting non-violent alternatives to conflicts. The Council will meet at least twice per year.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in SB 294 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year would not revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Citing data from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the State Personnel Office (SPO) reports that New Mexico is the 6<sup>th</sup> most violent state in the nation, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> for the number of violent crime deaths. Similarly, the Department of Health (DOH) indicated that in 2011, NM high school students reported to have carried weapons at a rate exceeding the national average.

The Public Education Department (PED) requires that public schools develop plans for violence prevention and crisis management. The agency expressed that the resources and skills generated by the Office of Peacebuilding are likely to help PED and the public develop safer schools.

The state agencies offer further statistical details that indicate a pattern of pervasive violence in New Mexico.

AIS/bb