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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Griego **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/04/15
LAST UPDATED 3/14/15 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE 12th Judicial District Judge in Lincoln County **SB** 334/aHJC

ANALYST Sánchez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Judiciary Committee amendment to Senate Bill 334 strikes “resides in” from the bill which was not removed in the original bill. The law would require one of the four district court judges to have the judge’s principal office in Lincoln County.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 334 amends Section 34-6-15 NMSA 1978, removing the requirement that the Division III judge in the Twelfth Judicial District must reside in and have the judge’s principal office in Lincoln County. The district includes four judges in Lincoln and Otero Counties. SB334 requires that one of the four judges reside in and have a principal office in Lincoln County.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

AOC reports that SB 334 ensures that at least one of the four judges in the district will be assigned to Lincoln County. It appears that “designated” implies a designation made by the Chief Judge or otherwise under the court rules. That point could be made explicit in the bill.

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NMSC reports that from 2010 to 2014, new and reopened civil cases filed in the 12th Judicial District decreased an average of 7.3 percent annually. During the same time period, new and reopened criminal case filings increased an average of .5 percent annually.

ABS/je/bb/je