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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez ORIGINAL DATE 03/02/15
 LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE Grandparents Raising Grandchildren SB 568

ANALYST Boerner

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

Ageing and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 568 appropriates \$100 thousand dollars from the general fund to ALTSD for providing supportive services to grandparents raising grandchildren.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 hundred thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

ALTSD notes that often when parents are unable to care for their children in New Mexico, where the culture of the extended family is strong, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other “kinship caregivers” assume parenting responsibilities for periods of time ranging from a few days to a lifetime. This familial solution provides children with connections to their families of origin and reduces the financial and administrative burden on the state, but it can add financial, physical, and emotional burdens on older adult kinship caregivers.

In New Mexico, more than 54,000 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren who are living with them. Children living with kinship caregivers experience fewer changes in living situations, are more likely to live with their siblings, have more positive perceptions of their homes and exhibit fewer behavioral problems, than do children in foster care.

In 2005, the Legislature created a multi-agency task force charged with developing an interdepartmental plan to assess the needs of children and youth living with kinship caregivers. One of the recommendations of the taskforce was to create a fund to assist kinship caregivers in accessing the court system when they need to establish legal guardianship of children who otherwise would enter the foster care system. ALTSD manages the contract for this Kinship Caregiver Legal Advocacy Network, which consists of a guardianship legal helpline, education and outreach services and legal representation for kinship caregivers.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ALTSD currently contracts with an organization that provides supportive services to grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers, statewide; ALTSD has the staff and capacity to contract these additional funds with no added administrative burden

CEB/aml/bb