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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/2016
SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Services for Victims of Human Trafficking **SB** 23

ANALYST Rogers

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
NFI	\$125.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	\$125.0	\$125.0	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

Administrative Office of the District Attorney (AODA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB 23 appropriates \$125 thousand from the general fund to CVRC in FY17 to aid victims of human trafficking. Any unexpended balance at the end of FY17 will revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In FY16, the legislature appropriated \$125 thousand dollars for support, advocacy, and services for crime victims; language appropriating the funds specifically for human trafficking was vetoed. SB 23 as written would only allow the funds to be expended for victims of human trafficking. The commission must assist eligible victims of human trafficking regardless of funding as trafficking is an enumerated crime in the statute governing the commission, Section 31-22-8 NMSA 1978.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CVRC explained that the commission originally intended to provide services to victims of human trafficking under standard compensation procedures. The commission met with human trafficking task forces and learned that most labor and sex trafficking victims do not report to law enforcement agencies, rendering them ineligible for compensation under current statute. CVRC used the allocation as emergency funding for those victims seeking help through a provider and was able to assist trafficking victims with immediate needs as result of victimization. CVRC has also enhanced advocacy to victims, encouraging them to report to law enforcement and become eligible for up to \$20 thousand in compensation per incident.

In FY16, CVRC created three contracts with non-profit organizations to better serve victims of human trafficking. CVRC explained that the “usual method of payment is reimbursement to victims for expenses they have incurred as a result of the victimization. In working with human trafficking task forces, we learned that accessing these funds immediately was necessary for relocation, rental assistance, transportation, medical, dental and counseling.”

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CVRC is required to solicit non-profit agencies willing to administer this funding through an RFP process. Once an agency is selected to administer these funds, extensive training is required and all application requests have to be approved by CVRC to ensure consistency and accountability.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The CVRC would not receive \$125 thousand last year that they received in FY16 to provide compensation to victims of human trafficking.

TMR/jle