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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez/Garret ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/2020  
LAST UPDATED 2/14/2020 HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Protect Children from Abuse and Neglect SJM 12/sSPAC  
ANALYST Bachechi

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>			NFI			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment adds additional stakeholders to the list of recipients to whom the memorial is to be transmitted, including the secretary of early childhood education and care and the chair of the crime victims reparation commission.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 12 resolves that the legislature reaffirm its commitment to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and further resolves that the legislature review and strengthen the laws that are meant to protect children from abuse and maltreatment.

The memorial specifically refers to provisions of the Children's Code that allow accused perpetrators to access minor victim's records and evidence as an exception to its confidentiality section and calls for the amendment of the confidentiality provisions to better protect access to minor's records.

The memorial also calls for a definition of "lewd and lascivious" conduct that could allow for law enforcement to bring charges against individuals exhibiting these behaviors in order to potentially identify child predators.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Children and families in New Mexico face persistent and generational low socio-economic outcomes and high risk for maltreatment. With over 40 thousand reports of potential maltreatment last year, New Mexico's rates for child maltreatment and repeat maltreatment are among the highest in the nation. The federal Administration of Children and Families reports New Mexico's overall victimization rate has increased by 36 percent since 2013, and the rate for children under 1-year-old has risen by 55 percent.

CLB/al/rl/al