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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Tripp DATE TYPED: 02/02/01 HB 351  
 SHORT TITLE: Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST: Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	NFI		NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
 Department of Game and Fish  
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
 Office of the State Engineer  
 New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 351 amends numerous statutes to reflect a name change from the New Mexico “Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources” to the “Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources.” Minor language cleanup is also accomplished with this bill. House Bill 351 expand the agency’s mission and responsibilities to include investigation of groundwater resources and geological hazards. Additionally, the bill requires the agency to assist the Office of the State Engineer to refine the understanding of the stratigraphy, structure and aquifer characteristics of geological formations in ground water basins.

#### Significant Issues

House Bill 351 formalizes the shift in research focus of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources from mining primarily to additional geology related sciences such as hydrology. In essence, the bill creates a state agency similar in focus and scope as the U.S. Geological Survey. The agency is a division of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, located in Socorro, New Mexico.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

House Bill 351 does not contain an appropriation. Enactment would not have an impact on the agency.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Enactment of House Bill 351 would have a minor impact on the agency in terms updating its office and promotional literature.

MV/ar:pr