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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gonzales **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/03/12
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 266
SHORT TITLE WW II Film Documentary Project **SB** _____
ANALYST Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|--------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY12 | FY13 | | |
| | \$48.0 | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Economic Development Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 266 appropriates \$48,000 in FY13 from the general fund to the New Mexico Film Division of the Economic Development Department to support the production of the film documentary "China-Burma-India: The Forgotten Theater of WWII." The documentary features New Mexico veterans and is an integral part of the Native American studies curriculum in universities worldwide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$48,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Film Office reports that although, the subject matter is important to New Mexico veterans and Native American veterans, it is not within the New Mexico Film office mission to produce films or documentaries. There are other ways to produce this documentary without government funds i.e. non-profits in the state could collaborating with the Veteran Affairs Department to

produce the film without money from state government.

The Legislature in 2011 honored New Mexico veterans who served in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater during World War II. Coverage of the Legislative recognition can be found at http://www.dvs.state.nm.us/CBI_Legislature.html

According to prior year Fiscal Impact Report received from the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the China-Burma-India (CBI) theatre is a forgotten part of World War II because it did not have an overall operational command structure. It was troubled by controversies between the military commands of the United States and the United Kingdom and conflicts with Chiang Kai-shek (China). As the war evolved and the tide turned against the Japanese, military attention and strategies shifted to the Pacific islands and the road to Japan.

The DCA notes that the contribution of New Mexicans in the CBI theater of WWII is not clear because it is not well researched or documented. This stands in direct contrast to the New Mexican contribution and sacrifice in the Philippines, especially as it relates to the Bataan Death March. The legislation derives from the fact that Navajo Code Talkers served in the CBI theatre and have heretofore gone relatively unrecognized.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The New Mexico Film Office reports that it does not have the staff to accommodate producing films as it would take away from the daily mission to attract the film and television industry locally, nationally and internationally. The NM Film Office's (NMFO) purpose is to market the state to this industry, service the productions, and promote jobs for New Mexicans. In addition, if the NMFO were to accommodate this project – it would open the gates for other projects requesting assistance from the NMFO, in which the NMFO does not have policies in place to support the physical production of films.

AMENDMENTS

The Legislature may want to consider appropriating these funds to a film program at one of the State's colleges or universities as a film project for students and directors.

DL/lj