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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/17

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Transfer Vietnam Memorial to GSD SB 320

ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total | | (\$109.3) | (\$109.3) | (\$218.6) | Recurring | EMNRD/General Fund |
| Total | | \$109.3 | \$109.3 | \$218.6 | | VSD/General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Senate Joint Resolution 20 transfers Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial real property from the State Parks Program to the General Services Department.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
 Veterans’ Services Department (VSD)
 General Services Department (GSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 320 would transfer operating responsibilities of the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial from EMNRD to VSD. The transfer would occur upon passage of Senate Joint Resolution 20 which would transfer the memorial’s real property from EMNRD to GSD.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The General Appropriation Act (GAA) contains a Section 3 provision allowing for the transfer of funds from one agency to another when other pieces of Legislation (such as SB320) are enacted. Currently, money to operate the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial in Colfax County resides in the State Parks Program of EMNRD and includes \$109.3 thousand in general fund and other funds. Upon passage of Senate Joint Resolution 20 and Senate Bill 320 appropriations contained in the

GAA would be transferred from EMNRD to VSD.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

GSD stated that as the new owner of the real property that they assume sufficient appropriations will be made to the Department of Veterans Services to properly operate and maintain the facility.

EMNRD provided the following:

The State Parks Division has owned and managed VVMSP since 2005 and during that time, VVMSP met the State Parks Division's mission. However, the Veterans' Services Department will be constructing a federally supported national veterans' cemetery adjacent to VVMSP in the coming years, which has precipitated discussion for this transfer between EMNRD, the Veterans' Services Department and GSD, as a cemetery is beyond the State Parks Division's mission. All agencies have discussed that sole management of both the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the cemetery would be best served by the Veterans' Services Department. As the Veterans' Services Department does not have statutory authority to own property, GSD would own the property.

EMNRD, the Veterans' Services Department, and GSD held multiple meetings and involved stakeholders and the public in discussions regarding this transfer. Stakeholders have supported such a transfer.

Transfer would be neutral to the overall state budget as funds from one agency would be transferred to the other. Transfer would also be neutral as related to personnel as all EMNRD staff (1 permanent FTE and 2 seasonal staff) would be transferred to the Veteran's Services Department.

VSD provided the following:

On May 22, 1971, Dr Victor Westphall dedicated the Vietnam Memorial Chapel in honor of his son, David, who was killed in action in Vietnam. This was the first memorial ever dedicated to the men and women who had lost their lives while fighting in Vietnam.

In 2004, the Westphall Foundation, then owners of the Memorial, approached the State of New Mexico about transferring the Memorial to the state. On Memorial Day 2005, the Memorial was officially transferred to the State Parks Division of EMNRD. They have had operational control of the Memorial since then.

Every year, approximately 50,000 veterans from across the world visit the Memorial as a place of peace and healing. Most of these veterans served during the Vietnam Conflict and now see it as a shrine that in most cases offers them a sense of closure for their time in Vietnam.

Because the Memorial sees so many veterans each year, the State Parks Division wanted to best serve those veterans who visit this place of healing, they approached VSD about taking over operational control and management and VSD agreed that this would be the proper agency to manage the Memorial and serve those veteran and families.