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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, J. ORIGINAL DATE 2/4/2020  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 299  
SHORT TITLE NM Civil War Volunteers Film SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Chilton

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$150.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

#### No Response Received

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 299, NM Civil War Volunteers Film, appropriates \$150 thousand from the General Fund to the Veterans' Services Department for the purpose of producing a film to portray the efforts of New Mexicans as volunteers in the Civil War, especially for New Mexico schoolchildren.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

VSD indicates that it will probably need to work with other state agencies and film industry, as it has very limited experience with producing films.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Many New Mexicans have heard of the Confederate invasion of 1861, which began in El Paso, Texas and proceeded to occupy the Mesilla Valley and then worked its way up the Rio Grande to Valverde, where a bloody battle was fought, to Albuquerque and then to Santa Fe. The invading force then headed northeast, where they were met by soldiers from Fort Union and New Mexico volunteers at Glorieta Pass, March 26-28, 1862, where Union forces prevailed, and the invading force was chased back out of the state and Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and the Mesilla Valley were retaken. After this occurred, in 1862, New Mexico was not again a theater for any battles in the Civil War.

Historian Jerry D. Thompson has written a book, *A Civil War History of the New Mexico Volunteers and Militia*, published by the University of New Mexico Press that concentrates on these early skirmishes in the Civil War. Less well known are subsequent activities of volunteers from New Mexico fighting farther east in the Civil War, which went on a further three years. The First New Mexico Volunteer Infantry continued to protect New Mexico for the Union until the Civil War ended.

Civil War battles and volunteer units are of interest to visitors to the New Mexico Museum of History, the Albuquerque Museum, and at the site of the battles of Valverde and Glorieta pass. They should also be made alive for schoolchildren in New Mexico, perhaps through a film.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The sponsor might consider placing responsibility for producing this film with an agency more accustomed to producing films, such as the Economic Development Department or the Tourism Department.

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