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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Brantley/Terrazas</u>	LAST UPDATED <u>2/6/2025</u>
Southern NM Communication	ORIGINAL DATE <u>1/27/2025</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Infrastructure</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 51/aSTBTC</u>
	ANALYST <u>Hilla</u>

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$3,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis was Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Tax Business and Transportation Committee amendment to Senate Bill 51

The Senate Tax Business and Transportation Committee (STBTC) amends Senate Bill 51 (SB51) to allow for a longer period of expenditure of the \$3 million appropriation, allowing for expenditure through fiscal year 2027, as opposed to fiscal year 2026 in the original SB51.

Synopsis of Original Senate Bill 51

Senate Bill 51 (SB51) appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for the purpose of constructing communication towers, including radio and cellular towers, in the counties of Dona Ana, Luna, and Hidalgo.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general

fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA states that Dona Ana County and Hidalgo County are actively on or are transitioning to the digital trunked radio system at the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). DFA states that that the counties should coordinate with DoIT for any radio tower that is constructed to allow connection to DoIT's radio system, also noted by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). DoIT states the bill lacks detail in how the \$3 million appropriation would be spent. If the result is a state-owned or county-owned radio tower, DoIT requests language to be added to SB51 to allow agency access to the towers for its digital trunk radio system.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Doña Ana and Luna counties received capital appropriations for expenditure in FY25 through FY28 for similar efforts. Doña Ana County received \$100 thousand to plan, purchase, and replace handheld and mobile radio units and related infrastructure, including the installation of handheld and mobile radio systems in vehicles and at fixed locations, for county facilities and public safety departments in the county, in addition to \$25 thousand to purchase and equip a public safety radio system for Mesilla. Luna County received \$230 thousand to plan, design, construct, and upgrade public safety communications equipment, including towers. Hidalgo County did not receive a capital appropriation last year.

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion states that communication infrastructure projects may be subject to mandatory reporting to the Federal Communication Commission, which potentially may pose additional administrative costs to the counties involved.

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