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### **FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**

SPONSOR:	Lopez	DATE TYPED:	02/14/00	HB	
SHORT TITLE:	Governmental Dispute Resolution Act			SB	262/aSFC
				ANALYST:	Lockwood

### **APPROPRIATION**

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
		See Narrative			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

LFC Files

### **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of SFC Amendment

The amendment strikes the general fund appropriation.

### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 262 enacts the Governmental Resolution Act and authorizes agencies to resolve disputes through alternative dispute resolution. The bill includes a \$60.0 general fund appropriation to the Department of Finance and Administration to provide assistance and training to agencies in FY2001.

An agency that chooses to use an alternative dispute resolution process shall develop an agreement with interested parties that:

- Provides for the appointment of neutrals, consultants or experts agreed upon by all parties
- Specifies limitation and time periods
- Established rules for the alternative dispute procedures
- Sets forth how costs and expenses shall be equitably apportioned among the parties.

SB262 includes provisions for agency heads to designate an employee as the administrative dispute resolution coordinator for the agency. The bill includes responsibilities for the coordinator including training for agency staff and distribution of the procedures to the agency staff and public. The bill specifies agencies may contract with another agency or a private entity for any of the services necessary to meet the objectives of the act.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Senate Bill 262 appropriates \$60.0 in general fund to the local government division of DFA for expenditure in FY2001 to assist agencies by training alternative dispute coordinators in agencies. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of FY2001 shall revert to the general fund. Section 4 of the bill contains language regarding the use of operating budgets to achieve the objectives of the bill. Agencies reviewing the bill comment that the fiscal impact beyond the appropriation is indeterminate.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Agency comments are mixed between the possible need for additional resources, and the ability to proceed with existing resources.

AL/gm