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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Lyons DATE TYPED: 02/21/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Certain Powers to Conservation Officers SB 526
 ANALYST: Dotson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
		NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 758

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Public Safety and Game and Fish Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB 526 amends the enforcement powers of Game and Fish law enforcement officers. It grants them direct enforcement authority over state statutes regarding negligent use of a deadly weapon, criminal damage to property, evading or obstructing an officer and camping next to a manmade waterhole.

Significant Issues

Increasing the authority of Conservation Officers may help meet public expectations in providing a safe and lawful environment. The extra effort and number of circumstances that this authority would be exercised would be limited and the effect on the primary duties of Conservation Officers would be negligible. The criminal sections covered in SB 526 are ones that the public would reasonably anticipate a Game and Fish officer to enforce.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the Department of Public Safety, a positive fiscal impact on their department could result. For example, if a Game and Fish officer encounters a violation while on normal duty, the Game and Fish officer may have to depend on a New Mexico State Police officer to come and enforce

Senate Bill 526 -- Page 2

the specific statutory sections. With the addition of this language, New Mexico State Police officers will be available for back up and assistance, but would not be needed for primary enforcement.

POSSIBLE QUESTION

Is additional training of Conservation Officers required to fulfill this legislation?

PD/njw:pr