FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Pinto   DATE TYPED: 2/11/02   HB

SHORT TITLE: Native American Veterans' National Cemetery   SB   SJM88

ANALYST: Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC

SUMMARY

  Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 88 requests the NM congressional delegation support legislation expanding 38 U.S.C. 2408 to include tribal governments in the distribution of grants from the federal state cemetery grants program so that a Native American veterans' national cemetery can be established within the four sacred mountains of the Navajo Nation. The bill allows for both Native American and non-native veterans to be buried near their homes in the Gallup, Grants, Farmington, Shiprock and Window Rock areas.

  Significant Issues

The memorial points out that the only veterans' cemetery on the Navajo Nation is located in Fort Defiance, Arizona and it is filled to capacity. The average age of the Navajo Nation World War II veteran in 75 years and over 50 veterans die each year. The memorial directs that the NM congressional delegation, director of the department of Navajo veterans' affairs, the secretary of the US department of veterans' affairs and the state director of veteran's affairs receive copies of the memorial.

BD/njw