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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 02-14-05 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE NMSU 4-H Clubs Indian Country Programs SB 709
 ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$500.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.
 Relates to HB168

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU), College of Agriculture and Home Economics (CAHE) (HB168)
 Economic Development Department (EDD) (HB168)

No Responses Received From

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 709 – Making an Appropriation to New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service for Education and Economic Development Programs in Indian Country for Education and Natural Resource Management, Family Wellness and Stability and Youth Development through 4-H Clubs – appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to provide the first phase of funding for

permanent cooperative extension service agents and offices on New Mexico's Indian reservations to establish programs to develop tribal and pueblo Indian agriculture and natural resources, family wellness and stability and youth development through outreach education that is culturally, economically and socially relevant to New Mexico tribal and pueblo Indian communities. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

IAD indicates this initiative would address four key areas important to Native American communities:

- teaching agriculture, ranching and natural resource management;
- developing 4-H youth and leadership clubs;
- foster community resource, economic and leadership development;
- strengthen family, health, home economics, nutrition and resource management.

NMSU-CAHE suggests that through culturally relevant education and training programs, it will provide opportunities for youth and adults to engage in informal education workshops, field days, and demonstrations that will be conducted in their own communities. Through formal partnerships with tribal colleges, NMSU, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other federal agencies, a major goal of community based education is to increase the number of Native people completing college degrees in New Mexico. The goals of the program are as follows:

- To operationalize the New Mexico Tribal Cooperative Extension Programs.
- To strengthen the relationship with the federal and state Cooperative Extension Service units, the 22 Indian tribes in New Mexico, and other Indian and non-Indian organizations.
- To produce a five-year NM Tribal Cooperative Extension strategic plan of work that prioritizes community based initiatives.
- To establish Tribal Cooperative Extension centers on tribal reservations and schools in New Mexico.
- To develop and implement the four major cooperative extension program areas of (1) Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, (2) 4-H Youth and Youth Leadership development, (3) Community Resource, Economic Development, and Leadership Development, and (4) Strengthening Family, Health, Nutrition and Resource Management in tribal communities.
- To develop a funding mechanism that will guarantee continued support from federal, state, and tribal funds using a matching formula system.
- To develop and implement a Native American Cooperative Extension Education and Training Program that offers college level credit courses in selected areas.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$500,000 appropriated in this bill for FY06 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

IAD notes that the following entities support the New Mexico State Education Cooperative Extension Program in Indian Country and endorse this proposal:

- The All Indian Pueblo Council supports efforts to secure funds to expand services that the Cooperative Extension Service provides to tribal entities, and supports the implementation of the New Mexico Tribal Extension Program to benefit tribes (AIPC Resolution No. 2004-09).
- The Jicarilla Apache Nation has been involved with the Extension Reservation Program since 1992 and wishes to continue their endorsement of the expansion and improvement of the Extension Education Program to benefit all Native Americans.
- The Crownpoint Institute of Technology ("CIT") supports the New Mexico Tribal Extension Initiative to establish new and strengthen existing Extension services programs. CIT recognizes both the opportunity for developing tribal agriculture, natural resources and assisting families through outreach education, and the need to assure outreach that is culturally, economically, and socially relevant to the unique tribal communities.
- The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute supports the proposed Tribal Extension Program to establish permanent Extension centers on tribal lands that will further the development of programs in agriculture, family, health, and youth leadership that benefits Native American students, ranchers and farmers.
- The Indian Affairs Commission formally endorses this request for funding.
- The Indian Affairs Department supports this request for funding.

New Mexico State University will retain administrative oversight of this project.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB168 in that HB168 seeks to appropriate \$3,055,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to provide permanent cooperative extension service agents and offices on New Mexico's Indian reservations to establish programs to develop tribal agriculture and natural resources, family wellness and stability and youth development through outreach education that is culturally, economically and socially relevant to New Mexico tribal communities.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

As general background to this issue, NMSU-CAHE indicates that for several years nearly all the Pueblos and the other Tribal Nations have made formal and informal requests to get more Cooperative Extension Service agents and programs on their reservations. Tribal leaders recognize the great needs their land and families have to strengthen and revitalize traditional agricultural practices. Tribal people also realize that education is the key to wisely using their natural and family and youth resources to create a sustainable life that will also be of benefit to their communities and their culture. In response to these requests, the New Mexico Tribal Extension Task Force was established to secure state, federal, tribal and private foundation dollars to support Extension programs in tribal communities in New Mexico. NMSU-CAHE notes that the task force remains cognizant of a number of interrelated factors:

- The team recognizes the challenges faced by Indian youth as they struggle to determine what it means to be a Native person in the twenty-first century. This group is tasked with planting the seeds of creativity to develop leaders and mentors of the next generation. It is critical that community leaders and educators collaborate to develop community-based Extension education programs that are designed to engage youth and young adults in efforts to revitalize traditional tribal agricultural and other related cultural practices, while building life skills that will insure their success in all communities.
- The catastrophic changes seen in the larger society, especially the breakdown of families and communities, are also present in Indian communities. Not only is there increased violence among youth and increased substance and drug abuse, tribal communities are experiencing the disintegration of their cultural traditions and the loss of Native languages. Recent statistics provided by the Administration for Native Americans, a federal government agency, indicate that by the year 2020 only 19 of the more than 587 federally recognized tribes in America will be living in communities where all the people, including children, will be speaking their Native languages.
- The Indian Health Service recently reported that there are more than 800 Native American gangs nationwide in reservation and urban communities. This incidence is attributed to the deterioration of traditional values and lack of cultural integration and connection to the land among youth and young adults. This situation is also related to the fact that young people and elders are no longer spending as much time together. Tribal leaders and elders recognize that federal housing development is partly to blame for this since newly created housing subdivisions are generally situated away from the more traditional places where older people live.
- Western academic school systems have not succeeded in the educational development of Native American youth. School dropout rates are highest for Native American students compared to all other populations. High school dropout rates average 50 percent and college dropout rates approach 65 percent. Among Native American college freshmen, the average dropout rate is 79 percent in New Mexico.

In response to these issues, NMSU-CAHE suggests that tribal cooperative extension programs will be designed to reverse the negative patterns of cultural disintegration by revitalizing traditional indigenous agricultural, family, and natural resource restoration practices. The traditional Native culture serves as a foundation for strengthening community, creativity, and pride. In

many traditional Indian cultures, agriculture serves as an everyday expression of cultural identity and a mechanism for continuing traditions and sustaining tribal community. Extension programs will be designed to promote the development of strong self-assured youth through leadership experiences, training, creative self-expression, and community service.

BFW/yr