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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 03/08/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Sanostee Day School Building Funds SB SJM 0092

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Indian Affairs Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 92 (SJM 92) urges the New Mexico Congressional delegation to do the following:

- Identify funding for temporary school buildings for the Sanostee Day School.
- Identify funding for construction of a new Sanostee Day School.
- Encourage the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to remedy the unsafe conditions at the Sanostee Day School and place school on the BIA facilities construction priority list.

It further directs that the memorial be given to the New Mexico Congressional delegation and representatives of the BIA, Navajo Nation, and the Sanostee Navajo Chapter.

Significant Issues

The Indian Affairs Department reports.

Data from the U.S. General Accounting Office show that, compared to other schools nationally, BIA schools (1) are generally in poorer physical condition, (2) have more unsat-

isfactory environmental factors, (3) more often lack key facilities requirements for education reform, and (4) are less able to support computer and communications technology.

Sanostee Day School is one of 49 BIA schools in New Mexico. Located in San Juan County, the Sanostee Day School serves seventy-two Navajo children in kindergarten through third grade. In December 2004, Sanostee Day School was condemned due to major structural damage caused by a cracked foundation forcing the students to attend classes in 4 portable buildings. The library, computer lab, administration and special education programs currently occupy community housing quarters removed from the portable classrooms. Consequently, the children must walk a long way to access these resources. Also, the children must ride the bus every day to the Sanostee Chapter multi-purpose building to eat breakfast and lunch.

According to the school staff, the BIA has made numerous visits to inspect the building; however, they remain unclear as to BIA's plans to rectify the building conditions.

The lack of adequate funding for the repair or new construction of the Sanostee Day School jeopardizes the health and safety of Navajo children, families and staff. Furthermore, the unsafe school conditions may force Navajo families in the Sanostee community to send their children to the Newcomb public school or the BIA boarding school located approximately 30 miles away.

MW/sb