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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-23-06

SPONSOR Begaye LAST UPDATED _____ HB 15

SHORT TITLE Culturally Appropriate Tourist Activities SB _____

ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
\$50.0		Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Tourism Department (TD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 15 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration for an existing Indian center in Farmington that promotes tourism and educational information that is culturally appropriate and traditionally oriented for use in FY06 and FY07. The bill contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB15 appropriates non-recurring \$50 thousand general fund for expenditure in FY06 and FY07.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the \$50 thousand appropriation in this bill would go to the Farmington Intertribal Indian Organization, a nonprofit organization which has been in existence for over 30 years. The appropriation will be partially used (\$15

thousand) to pay the salary of a coordinator who will coordinate the cultural activities to be funded under this legislation. Additionally, \$6 thousand will be used to fund a planning group to monitor the activities funded under this legislation. The remainder of the funding will pay for cultural activities put on by the nonprofit for local residents and tourists. Planned activities include an arts and craft bazaar, a youth cultural awareness conference, a Navajo song and dance event, and an entrant into the Farmington city parade. Many of the funded activities are youth oriented.

According to the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA), one of the top three most important reasons people visit New Mexico is Indian culture. The New Mexico Indian Tourism Association (NMITA), in partnership with the New Mexico Tourism Department (NMTD), is developing educational programs for tribal communities that promote Indian tourism in a culturally sensitive manner. DIA noted that, because tourism development in tribal communities is a sensitive issue, any tourism education project would need to approach the project on the terms and conditions of each individual tribe. Tourism in tribal communities should consider all available tribal resources and take an approach that is sensitive to cultural privacy.

NMTD indicated support for HB15 as a means to promote tourism and educate visitors to New Mexico.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMTD indicated that the increased tourism promotion and greater educational resources for visitors from HB15 may result in increased visitation to New Mexico, a key performance measure for NMTD.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DIA noted that HB15 directs that the appropriation be the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. However, appropriating the funds to the Tourism Department may better serve the intent of HB15. DIA indicated the Tourism Department may be better equipped to administer, monitor, and provide training and technical assistance to the Indian center, especially considering its partnership with NMITA.

DFA noted that the appropriation in HB15 will be administered through DFA which already has the staff and the knowledge to easily fund and monitor this project.

DH/yr:nt