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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/06

SPONSOR Lundstrom LAST UPDATED _____ HB 49

SHORT TITLE Tribal Literacy Programs SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 49 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of implementing new literacy programs on tribal sites in McKinley County.

Provisions contained in the bill require the department to contract with a nonprofit organization that has greater than 50 years of experience working with Native American children and that is already working in the state on the same type of integrated literacy program currently being used.

The bill contains a reversion provision at the end of FY07.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand is a Recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Education Department notes that children lacking preparation in basic literacy skills will be ill-prepared for secondary and post-secondary levels. Literacy programs that are tailored to the educational needs of Native American children may help to fill the gap in literacy development and increase educational performance of Native American students.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The requirements in House Bill 49 direct that the department contract with a nonprofit with more than 50 years of experience and working in the state. The LFC is concerned that this project is being directed to a particular company and may be in violation of the procurement code.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Indian Education Act of 2003 requires that curricula developed for Native American students go through tribal consultation and ensure tribal approval and support. Therefore, it is recommended that the administrator of the grant work with the PED'S Indian Education Division and Bilingual Education Bureau to assure that programming and curricula developed meet tribal and state standards and requirements.

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