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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Robinson ORIGINAL DATE 2/06/06
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Rolling Rain Forest SB 422
ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$35.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Tourism Department (TD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 422 appropriates \$35 thousand from the general fund to the Tourism Department to bring the Rolling Rain Forest Exhibit to New Mexico in 2007.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$35 thousand contained in this bill 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 Rolling Rainforest is a traveling exhibit mounted on a 53-foot tractor trailer owned by the Discovery Creek Museum of Washington, DC. The exhibit educates New Mexicans on environmental science and ecosystems. TD reports that the mobile exhibit has attracted large crowds throughout the nation on its tour.

The Legislature in 2005 appropriated funding for this purpose in FY06. The Rolling Rainforest exhibit visited Santa Fe and six New Mexico elementary schools February 1 – 14, 2006. To carry out the project the Tourism Department transferred the money via memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the Department of Cultural Affairs to contract with Discovery Creek Children's Museum and oversee the traveling exhibit.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The project supports both TD and DCA performance objectives by attracting in-state travel and providing science and natural history educational opportunities, respectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Enacting this bill will have a small administrative impact for DCA.

ALTERNATIVES

DCA recommends funding go directly to its department to eliminate unnecessary administrative work in the creation of an MOU to transfer money and authority, as occurred in FY06.

BE/yr