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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/07

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 213

SHORT TITLE Making and Appropriation to Implement the Native American Voting Rights Program in Sandoval County SB _____

ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Finance and Administration
Indian Affairs Department

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 213 makes an Appropriation to Implement the Native American Voting Rights Program in Sandoval County. House Bill 213 makes an appropriation of \$50 thousand for fiscal years 08 and 09 from the General Fund to implement the Native American voting rights program in Sandoval County.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Sandoval County Attorney who also manages the Native American Voting Rights Program, reports that the funds are used to increase voter registration and voter turnout on the Pueblos in Sandoval County by hiring up to 10 translators/liaisons who work closely with the Pueblo population in the months leading up to an election day and the election day itself.

Sandoval County has the most Native American languages (4) of any county in New Mexico. The funds are also used to translate the ballots into the 4 Native languages and to prepare an

audio interpretation of the ballot for those Native Americans who do not read the Native language.

Additionally, the liaisons go door to door, to senior centers and to local high schools to register unregistered voters. In the past, through the County's outreach efforts, individuals as young as 17 (who will be 18 on election day) and as old as 83 have become first time voters in Sandoval County. During early voting, the liaisons are stationed at each early voting location and are there to assist Native speakers. On election day, each polling place on Native American land is also staffed by the translators to ensure that all people interested in voting are given the opportunity as required by law.

In the last election, San Felipe Pueblo increased its voter turnout from 0% in past elections to 42% last November due in large part to the efforts of the Sandoval County staff. Funding from House Bill 213 will allow Sandoval County to continue its outreach efforts to Native speakers.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Sandoval County already has the staffing in place to manage the administration of this funding. There will be no administrative cost to a state agency.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If the funding is not secured, Sandoval County will have to tap into its General Fund and will be forced hire fewer translator/liaison personnel. This could hinder the County in its Native American voting outreach efforts.

WEP/nt:csl