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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/08/07
 SPONSOR Lujan, B. LAST UPDATED 3/15/07 HB HM 84/aHFL#1/aHFL#2
 SHORT TITLE Indigenous Agriculture & Native Seeds SB _____
 ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Floor Amendment #2

This amendment eliminates the memorial's content surrounding the issue of genetically engineered crops and shifts the focus primarily to the practice of traditional agricultural systems in New Mexico.

Synopsis of House Floor Amendment #1

This amendment requests that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University, to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at New Mexico State University, and to the Secretary of Indian Affairs.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Memorial 84 requests the recognition of the significance of indigenous agricultural practice and native seeds to New Mexico's heritage and food security.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Memorial 84 states:

- The ability to grow food is the culmination of countless generations of sowing and harvesting seeds, which are an inheritance passed through generations;

- New Mexico's native foods and crops are the result of the intermixing of Mesoamerican, pueblo, tribal and Hispano cultures that created an indigenous agricultural system and land-based culture;
- Traditional agricultural systems and native seeds provide the basis for local food production in acequia, pueblo and tribal communities, represent the foundation for local food security and contribute to the health and well-being of New Mexico's communities;
- Strengthening local agriculture and indigenous agricultural practices is a vital strategy for strengthening food security at the local and state levels;
- Traditional agriculture and seed-saving is part of a culture characterized by communities and families coming together for communal work that binds communities and cultures;
- The relationship that exists between corporations that produce genetically engineered crops and individual farmers has produced considerable concerns within the farming community;
- Traditional farmers from pueblo and acequia communities have come together for a ceremonial seed exchange and a declaration of seed sovereignty between the traditional Native American Farmers Association and the New Mexico Acequia Association, and
- Since the signing of that declaration, resolutions in support of seed sovereignty have been passed by the Pueblos of Tesuque and Pojoaque, all Indian Pueblo Councils and the National Congress of American Indians.
- This memorial requests the support of the House of Representatives for the following objectives as established by the New Mexico Food and Seed Sovereignty Alliance:
 - protecting native seeds from genetic contamination;
 - increasing the extent of the cultivation of native seeds and the raising of small herds of livestock in pueblos and acequia communities;
 - supporting the livelihood of traditional farmers and ranchers with financial and educational resources, leading to improved viability of farming; and
 - increasing the extent to which locally grown food is served within the same community in which it is grown, particularly by tribal, public and community institutions.
- This memorial additionally asks that the Department of Agriculture be requested to collaborate with the New Mexico Food and Seed Sovereignty Alliance in supporting traditional farmers in their communities, protecting native seeds and increasing the cultivation of native seeds by developing specific policy recommendations.
- Also, copies of this memorial are requested to be transmitted to the governor, the Director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Indian Affairs.