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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/07

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Native American Emergency Managers SB 109

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$1,320.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$20.0	\$20.0	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Indian Affairs Department (IDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 109 appropriates \$1.32 million from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department to fund 22 emergency managers throughout the Indian Pueblos and Tribes. Each entity is to receive \$60 thousand.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.32 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department notes.

This bill is intended to close a gap in New Mexico's emergency management infrastructure. A 2005 capacity assessment by the NM Department of Health, Office of Health Emergency Management found inadequate tribal emergency management programs. One of its recommendations was the employment of a full-time emergency manager at each Tribe. Currently, only five New Mexico Tribes (Acoma, Jemez, Laguna, Navajo Nation, and Santa Clara) employ devoted emergency managers- funded through a mixture of federal, state, and tribal revenues. The remaining 17 Tribes in the state have assigned emergency management responsibilities to staff with other responsibilities.

Given the continuing demands of the post-9/11 world and a never ending stream of natural disasters, the emergency needs of our state are greater than ever. The geographic remoteness and vast land areas of many New Mexico Tribes makes them especially susceptible to serious emergencies. Recent flooding in northern and central New Mexico Pueblos, the pandemic flu, and historic snowstorms all reinforce the unique needs of Tribal communities in the realm of emergency preparedness and response. The current Tribal infrastructure for emergency management is inadequate to protect New Mexico citizens and resources in those areas.

This bill has been endorsed by the Interim Indian Affairs Committee. The concept of creating slots at each of New Mexico's 22 Tribes for emergency managers is supported by the NM Native American Emergency Management Association. The Pueblo of Zuni endorses the idea of providing state support for Tribal emergency managers, but is concerned that the proposed funding is inadequate. Particularly, the Pueblo supports a recurrent state funding stream for the position and additional monies to account for the additional administrative burdens that tribes will realize.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In order to administer this program, the IAD reports the need for ¼ FTE. Given the current understaffed state of the IAD, it cannot absorb these costs without new resources. These administrative expenses are not accounted for in SB 109. The operating budget increase above is estimated at \$20 thousand annually for this expense.

MW/nt