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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/07

SPONSOR Harden LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Conservancy District Electors & Voting SB 488

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 354

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Attorney General's Office (AGO)

No Responses Received From
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 488 would amend NMSA Section 73-14-57 of the Conservancy Act of New Mexico to allow business entities which have owned property situated within a conservancy district for at least six months prior to an election to vote for members of the board of directors. It would also allow business entities via "a person authorized to represent a business entity" to become candidates for, and presumably serve on the board of directors of the district. The bill would also establish procedures for voting for directors by mail.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Attorney General's Office, the bill does not define "business entity", which could include Limited Liability Companies, corporations, partnerships, etc. It is not unprecedented for businesses to vote in special district elections (i.e. Cotton Boll Weevil elections include "cotton producers")

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

LFC files note that the use of mail-in ballots will make smaller elections, such as conservancy district elections, more manageable and will allow more voters to cast ballots.

EO/mt