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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/07

SPONSOR Taylor LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Indian Arts Institute Film & TV Workshop SB 934

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 934 appropriates \$300.0 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department 2008 to initiate a statewide pilot project for a sovereign nation service corps (“Corps”) that provides tribal youth with an opportunity to pursue higher education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 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 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Indian Affairs reports AmeriCorps, a program component of the Corporation for National and Community Service (“CNCS”), is a community based volunteer program that matches paid volunteers with communities in need. The Sovereign Nation Service Corps of New Mexico

(“Corps”) would be a program modeled after the AmeriCorps*VISTA program. The VISTA program provides volunteers in highly disadvantaged communities in an attempt to bring low and income individuals and communities out of poverty. The proposed pilot program would provide stipends and scholarship opportunities to youth, in return for volunteer service in New Mexico Tribal communities. Scholarships (educational awards) could be used for a period of up to 7 years or until degree completion or could be used to pay off already incurred student loan debt.

In addition to providing a \$10,000 stipend and health benefits, students who volunteer with the Corps can earn a educational award (approx. \$4,725) provided by the NM Commission for Community Volunteerism. It is anticipated that most of the students who earn this award will attend NM higher educational institutions. Further, technical (e.g., job training and skill building) and career advancement opportunities will be provided to all student volunteers.

VISTA volunteers will provide technical and organizational support to the NM Indian Affairs Department (“IAD”) to initiate the pilot program.

MW/nt