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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/14/07

SPONSOR Ryan LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

NAVAJO HISTORY & CULTURE TEACHING

SHORT TITLE GUIDE SB 1041

ANALYST Weber

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 1041 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department to contract for the research, development and dissemination of a cross-curricular teaching guide on Navajo history and culture for secondary school students. The appropriation shall be used for a teaching guide that meets New Mexico academic content and performance standards and utilizes an existing popular culture feature film based on the Navajo culture.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 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 notes that the bill supports the New Mexico Indian Education Act by developing and implementing culturally appropriate curricula designed to educate all New Mexico students

about Navajo history and culture. Further, the scope of the bill allows non-Indian secondary school students to learn about Navajo history and culture in a manner that meets New Mexico academic content and performance standards.

PED adds that the Navajo Nation Office of Dine Culture, Language and Community Services currently has the following resources in Navajo (Dine) Studies:

- Curriculum Guide for Dine Government
- Navajo Nation Education Standards with Navajo Specifics
- Dine Cultural Standards for Students
- Dine Language Standards for Students.

These resources are based on the Navajo traditional philosophy and worldview approach to education. These resources are currently available to public schools in New Mexico.

The Indian Affairs Department would have to communicate and collaborate with the Navajo Nation Division of Dine Education to research, develop and disseminate a cross-curricular teaching guide on Navajo history and culture for secondary school students.

PED continues that the use of an existing popular culture feature film based on the Navajo culture to develop and disseminate a cross-curricular teaching guide on Navajo history and culture does not fully provide an in-depth resource on Navajo culture. Furthermore, most popular feature films do not fully capture the Navajo traditional philosophy and worldview. Most feature films on Navajos are developed by non-Indians and non-Navajos.

Navajo traditional educational philosophy does not always align with western educational standards.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Indian Affairs indicates that since this is an education oriented appropriation regarding curricula for secondary schools consideration should be given to making the appropriation to the Public Education Department.

MW/nt