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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/22/2007

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE “Colonias Day” SB SJM 39

ANALYST Schuss

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 39 recognizes March 5, 2007 as “Colonias Day” and requests the Governor and his cabinet to assist local efforts to improve the quality of life in New Mexico by adding rural communities and Colonias to the state’s priority action list of programs and water projects for legislative funding.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Joint Memorial 39 states that the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties comprises the elected officials who are responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the residents of New Mexico’s thirty three counties, and these board members are asked to represent and address the needs of these residents.

SJM 39 reports that rural and Colonias communities are sorely lacking in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and sanitation services. By working together the state and individual communities could lift these communities up and provide better futures for the children in the communities who will in turn raise their own families on family properties. Residents of rural and Colonias communities face harsh challenges on a daily basis and are reluctant to ask for help.

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Initiating a statewide improvement program for rural and Colonias communities where the state partners with the counties to empower these small communities could dramatically improve the quality of life in them.

The Legislature of the State of New Mexico requests that March 5, 2007 be recognized as “Colonias Day” in the Legislature. SJM 39 also requests that Governor Richardson and his cabinet work with the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties to assist local efforts to improve the quality of life in the state and to add improvements for rural communities and Colonias to the state’s priority action list of programs for legislative funding.

PED notes that many of New Mexico’s rural communities need to implement innovative and sustained economic development, retain a highly trained work force and have better access to state agencies. This initiative would serve as a catalyst for holistic community revitalization in rural schools and their efforts to establish private-public partnerships.

BS/mt