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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR Lujan, A LAST UPDATED _____ HB 261

SHORT TITLE State Historian Regional Historian Initiative SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Duplicates HB18, HB69, HB82, SB4

Responses Received From

Commission of Public Record (CPR)

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 261 appropriates \$500 thousand from the GENERAL FUND to Commission of Public Records for expenditure in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for the purpose of the state historian's regional historian initiative.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a RECURRING expense to the GENERAL FUND. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2010 shall revert to the GENERAL FUND.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As noted by the Commission of Public Records, the appropriation would allow it to contract with qualified historians based in four regions across the state as well as with a regional coordinator to manage the program. Each region will include eight counties and in one case nine counties.

Each of the four regional historians would be contracted for two years at \$46.0 per year (\$92.0 each for a total of \$368.0), which will include their operating expenses. The OSH regional coordinator would be contracted for two years at \$55.0 per year (\$110.0 total), which will include operating expenses. Their responsibilities, expectations and deliverables will be based generally on the mission of the agency and its OSH and will be detailed in each contract. The remaining balance will be used for equipment.

Further, the state historian serves as the advocate and authority on New Mexico history. The OSH is a division within the State Records Center and Archives (SRCA) and is staffed by the state historian, assistant state historian and, beginning in July, 2007, a part time administrative assistant

Finally CPR adds that based on a model utilized in other states to encourage a focus on local history, the state historian has identified this program as a necessary component to serving all communities across the state and redressing the neglect of communities and regions that are peripheral to capital of Santa Fe and large metropolitan area of Albuquerque. The proposal is to begin with four historians and one regional coordinator. Each historian will be based within and focus on a regional parameter that includes eight counties each, and in one case nine counties; in sum total all 33 counties will be included in this effort. These regional historians will be guided generally by the mission of the agency, which includes as one component a charge to promote an understanding and appreciation of NM history and that of OSH which echoes the agency's—*to foster and facilitate an understanding and appreciation of New Mexico history and culture through education, research, preservation and community outreach*—with specifically identified deliverables that include work on compiling histories reflective of events, people, places and stories based within the eight and nine county parameter. These duties and deliverables would include assisting the state historian in addressing building history literacy and curriculum for use in the K-12 classroom. Deliverables that will be identified in the contract will include completing a certain number of oral histories, public lectures in their specified region and writing and editing a certain number of historical and interpretive essays for publication by the OSH.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Commission of Public Records identified the following performance implications.

Create and foster supportive relationships.

- Create and foster relationships with government agencies, local and tribal communities, and professional organizations to support and promote an understanding of New Mexico history and culture.

Foster and facilitate an understanding and appreciation of New Mexico history and culture through education, research, and community outreach.

- Work with universities, K-12 schools, educators and students consistent to foster understanding and appreciation for New Mexico history. .
- Collaborate with government, institutional and community oral history projects.
- Provide outreach to communities within New Mexico focused on New Mexico history and culture, including presentations, lectures and exhibits.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Commission of Public Records indicates that the Regional Historians Coordinator will also

be charged with establishing contracts and managing the program. The bill, if enacted, would, however, impose additional and on-going administrative and operational requirements on the agency not covered by the appropriation. The \$5.0 per year figure provided in the *Estimated Additional Operating Impact* table, above, is an estimate of the costs of those activities and includes the costs of resources required to promulgate and update rules to govern the operations of the program and selection of regional historians; recruit and select contractors; review contracts (if developed by the contracted coordinator, staff will still have to ensure they meet state standards); review verify and certify contract compliance; establish and process contracts, requisitions, purchase orders and vouchers through the state SHARE system; prepare and monitor budgets; etc.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Department of Cultural Affairs explains that the Office of the State Historian is New Mexico's lead agency on history education, outreach and programming. With limited staff in the agency, it is our understanding that the agency's aggressive agenda would be best served by the regional historians program as outlined in this bill. This model has been used successfully in other states to foster interest in local history and to promulgate effective statewide projects. This type of regional historians approach in our state may greatly enhance the State Historian's high-profile plan for bringing innovative history programs to the people and communities of New Mexico.

EO/bb