

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR Lujan, B LAST UPDATED _____ HB 402

SHORT TITLE State Historian Digital History Project SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$15.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$5.0*	\$5.0*	\$10.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

* Costs to the agency to administer the contracts, review research and digitize documents for this project averages to about \$5.0 per year.

Relates to SB4, SB172, SB216, SB390, HB14, HB18, HB69, and HB82

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Commission of Public Record (CPR)
Attorney General's Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 402, making an appropriation to the state commission of public records for the state historian's digital history project, appropriates \$15 thousand from the GENERAL FUND to Commission of Public Records for the purpose of the state historian's land grant digital history project.

This bill will allow the Commission of Public Records to contract with qualified researchers, archivists or historians to research land grant records located at the State Records Center and

Archives and to digitize original documents, and also to transcribe and translate these documents and make them more accessible through the New Mexico Digital History Project (NMDHP).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15 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.

Additional operating expenses include indirect costs such as the time necessary to establish and review the contracts, time spent reviewing deliverables, and IT support. While the Commission fully supports the NMDHP it is concerned about the agency's ability to absorb additional administrative responsibilities. The resources of both the Office of the State Historian and administrative services division are already stretched; additional administrative staff and IT support to maintain the website may be necessary if the agency is to administer the NMDHP effectively.

It should also be noted that HAFB adopted the LFC budget recommendation, which included an expansion for \$18.3 thousand and 0.5 FTE to convert an existing 0.5 FTE to full time. The position would provide administrative support to the Office of the State Historian and relieve the state historian and the deputy historian of administrative duties.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Attorney General's Office, The title of the bill and the appropriation do not reference the same project. The New Mexico State Historian is implementing a "New Mexico Digital History Project". See http://newmexicohistory.org/digital_history.php. The title of the bill refers to that project. However, this bill states that the appropriation is for the "Land Grant Digital History Project".

The state historian notes that one of the most pressing policy issues of the 20th century in New Mexico has been the question of land tenure following the U.S. annexation of New Mexico in 1848. Full understanding and appreciation of the issue can only be found through detailed examination and research of the written record. These records include original land grants, which were made to individuals and communities during the Spanish (1598-1821) and Mexican (1821-1846) periods of New Mexico's history. Following the annexation and in accord with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the archival records also include extensive documentation produced by the office of the United States Surveyor General of New Mexico and the United States Court of Private Land Claims. Collectively, these records are held at the State Records Center and Archives. While there are approximately 300 land grants, the appropriation will allow the agency to begin the process of digitizing the 120 active New Mexico Land Grants. By digitizing a portion of these land grant records, valuable documentation will be made more accessible to land grant heirs, scholars working on these records, students and educators.

The Commission of Public Records and the Office of the State Historian have already developed the website and maintenance for the website (which is hosted off-site) is incorporated into the operating budget. However the agency has limited resources to provide the necessary manpower to research and produce the historical essays that are necessary to provide a context for digitized documents, maps, video and photographs.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Office of the State Historian's New Mexico History Digital project is identified in the Commission of Public Record's FY 08 strategic plan as follows:

INITIATIVE #2: BUILD AWARENESS OF AGENCY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Strategy 2.1: Improve on-line access to agency resources and services.

Action Step 2.1.4. Expand and enhance NM history website.

- Provide access to Phase 1 of the history website by target date of 6/30/08.
- Create 25 content units and make them available through the New Mexico History website.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would appropriate \$15.0 to the agency for the purposes identified above. The intent of the appropriation is three-fold: first, to employ consultants to conduct the research, second to publish the research information on-line, and third to digitize original land grant documents and place them online through the New Mexico Digital History website. The appropriation will allow the agency to contract with 2 to 5 consultants to conduct research and translate and transcribe documents based on direction from the State Historian. Resources will also be required to upload the information on to the History website and to scan original documents housed at the State Records Center and Archives.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB4, SB172, SB216, SB390, HB14, HB18, HB69, and HB82

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without the appropriation, access to land grant documents will be limited to on-site visits to the State Records Center and Archives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What is the distinction between the digital history project and the land grant digital history project?

EO/bb