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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/06/09

SPONSOR Maestas LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 177

SHORT TITLE School Educational Field Trips SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 177 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of purchasing and distributing tickets to public school students for an educational trip to a professional basketball trip in Albuquerque.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 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 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the February 2009 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$575 million less than the FY09 appropriations before the 2009 solvency reductions. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

Participation in the "School House Jam" sponsored by the Albuquerque Thunderbirds would require schools to provide transportation for the field trip. Bus transportation for 10,000 students is approximately 250 buses at an average of \$200 per bus for a total of \$50,000 for transportation costs that would be incurred by schools and is not funded in this bill.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

PED notes

- A consequence of the bill would be the substitution of state monies for private monies.
- The taxpayer might perceive this appropriation to be a subsidy for an educational trip to a professional basketball game in Albuquerque.
- During the 2007 Legislature SB 611 was passed for FY 2008. The bill provided \$5 thousand to purchase and distribute tickets to school students for semiprofessional basketball games.
- During the 2008 Legislature SB 107 was introduced with an appropriation of \$100 thousand and did not pass.

The Thunderbird organization proposes to utilize the money for a “School House Jam” game. The “School House Jam” game is set for Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 10:30 am. For the program, schools develop their own curriculum that a child needs to successfully complete in order to participate. Game day serves as a reward for the child’s successful completion of the established curriculum. To continue the educational component during the game, a work book in partnership with Newspapers In Education is provided to each student in attendance. There are also scheduled appearances by groups such as the Albuquerque Police Department, D.A.R.E., M.A.D.D. and other various community partners.

In the past the Legislature has allocated funding for student participation in the Thunderbird’s “School House Jam” game. The appropriation contained in this bill would allow for approximately 10,000 students to participate. Tingley Coliseum has a capacity of 12,000. This allocation does not cover the cost to schools for transportation of students for participation in the “School House Jam”.

The capacity for spare buses and drivers statewide to run a field trip of this enormity may not exist.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

PED notes that this bill may violate the anti-donation clause of the New Mexico Constitution by providing tickets to students without return to the state.

PA/svb