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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/26/09

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 744

SHORT TITLE Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Film Festival SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Varela

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$20.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

Economic Development Department (EDD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 744 appropriates \$20 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) for the purpose of funding a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender film festival in Santa Fe or Albuquerque.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$20 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.

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.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to DCA, the Southwest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival has been presented by Closet Cinema in Albuquerque for a number of years, with strong attendance in Albuquerque and slightly less in Santa Fe. While there are numerous film festivals throughout the state, throughout the year, this is the only festival in New Mexico that specifically serves a gay and lesbian audience. It has been presented as a regional festival, with discussions and workshops pertaining to gay and lesbian issues accompanying the film schedule.

DCA reports that many of the films presented in this and other film festivals are unrated and contain strong adult content, which might be alleviated by program notes if programmers are willing to indicate films as such.

DCA also notes that it would need to be made clear that state funds cannot be used for food, beverages or lodging, as several parties generally accompany film festivals and out-of-state filmmakers are often invited to stay and attend.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

This bill relates to the LFC level of recommended funding for the Museums and Monuments Program of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DCA reports that the Film Museum Division has as part of its mission to raise awareness of the cultural impact of motion pictures and television and to preserve and expand the legacy of film art in New Mexico. Film festivals focused on topics that affect and educate New Mexico's citizens are welcome additions to the museum's programming.

PV/svb