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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/26/09

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones LAST UPDATED _____ HB 761

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Museum Educational Programs SB _____

ANALYST Varela

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$150.0	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)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 761 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to contract for statewide education programs by a science center and children's museum in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 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 programs specified in this bill refer to the Explora Science Center & Children’s Museum, located on Mountain Road near Old Town in Albuquerque. The funding would support outreach activities to communities statewide, focusing on young children, their caregivers, and the educators who serve them.

DCA notes that Explora has outlined four areas of continued outreach programming that will be supported by this appropriation:

1. A school-based outreach program that provides standards-based presentations to classrooms throughout the state.
2. A program that brings school-groups from all over the state to Explora to visit its exhibit facility and participate in standards-based lessons in its classrooms.
3. Overnight "camp-ins," which allow groups from many communities to utilize the Explora facility and participate in overnight programs.
4. Professional development programs for New Mexico educators.

The program's focus is in developing science-based activities for young children and involving caregivers in their education at an early age. Because a portion of the funds in this appropriation will be used for the training of educators and caregivers, the number of individuals indirectly impacted by these funds will continue to grow each year.

RELATIONSHIP

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

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DCA currently has a contract with Explora for \$221.4 thousand for programming. This amount includes the 100.0 in the department’s base operating budget for Explora for FY2009 as well as special appropriations coming out of the 2008 Legislative Session.

PV/svb