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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/13/13

SPONSOR Jeff LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 207

SHORT TITLE Native American Veterans Division SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Esquibel

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 207 would add a Native American Veterans Division to the Veterans' Services Department (VSD).

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill contains no appropriation.

The creation of a new division within the VSD would require some additional operating funds to carry out the expanded mission.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill calls for the creation of a Native American Veteran Division within the VSD and lists the following responsibilities for the division:

- Conduct outreach to Native American veterans and Native American veterans organizations;

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- Act as a liaison between Native American veterans, organizations, the department, as well as the state and federal governments;
- Assist Native American veterans to organize and advocate for benefits and services unique to Native Americans.

The VSD indicates the department has 3 Native American Veteran Service Officers that serve Farmington, Gallup and the Isleta areas. The VSD also has 2 other service officers that serve Taos and the Mescalero Apache Reservations. The Department currently relies on these service officers to handle outreach to Native American regions and advocate for Native American veteran issues. The VSD indicates it coordinates with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the federal VA Office of Indian Affairs, and with various independent Native American agencies and veterans' groups.

RAE/svb