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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/21/13
 LAST UPDATED 03/06/13 HB _____

SPONSOR Campos

SHORT TITLE Springer Correctional Center Agreement SB 513/aSCORC

ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SCORC Amendment

The Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee amendment to Senate Bill 513 removes the Department of Transportation from the list of agencies required to enter into a joint powers agreement.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 513 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) for the NMCD, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Higher Education Department (HED) to enter into a joint powers agreement to advance the operation of the Springer Correctional Center (SCC) and to develop the economy serving the center. The proposed agreement will address employee vacancies, the availability of housing, transportation services, farm programming for inmates, and vocational programs for inmates offered at the center by the Luna Community College. The bill requires the NMCD to report to the Economic Development Department and the Legislative Finance Committee by August 1, 2014, with a summary of actions completed pursuant to the joint powers agreement.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY14 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMCD provided the following:

The NMCD is working with the non-profit Horses for Heroes, the Livestock Board, and the New Mexico State University Department of Agriculture to consider and address potential programs centered on land-based ideas. Additionally, the NMCD has entered into discussions with the Luna Community College to propose ideas for vocational programs focusing on transferable skills inmates can use when released and be based in part on the length of stay at the SCC. Programs considered include building trades, culinary arts, website design, equine science and horticulture.

Even though the NMCD recognizes that it is one of the largest employers in the Springer area, caution should be exercised when considering correctional facilities as mechanisms for economic development. The NMCD is committed to being a good neighbor and partner with communities and other state agencies wherever possible. However, the NMCD cannot lose sight of its core function and mission, which is to safely and securely incarcerate and rehabilitate individuals convicted of felonies.

EC/blm:svb