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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE**  
**LAST UPDATED** 01/21\15 **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR** Soules

**SHORT TITLE** Fort Sill Apache Tribe on Certain Councils **SB** 18

**ANALYST** Dunbar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	NFI		

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From  
 Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis

Senate Bill 18 amends Section 9-7-11 NMSA 1978 to increase the number of members on the Native Americans Suicide Prevention Council from eleven to twelve . Additionally, SB 18 increases the membership in the Indian Education Advisory Council from sixteen to seventeen members. SB 18 specifies the new members as representatives from the Fort Sill Apache Tribe.

Currently, an 11-member council assists in developing policies, rules and priorities for the NM Clearinghouse for Native American suicide prevention. The council works with the clearinghouse to provide culturally relevant suicide prevention, intervention and post-event assistance statewide to Native American individuals, families and tribes, nations and pueblos living with suicide, attempted suicide, or the risk of suicide.

In FY13 the Indian Education Act was amended to change the composition of the Indian Education Advisory Council, specifically identifying by number of representation from the nations, tribes and pueblos. Members shall be appointed by the secretary with input from tribes and organizations involved in the education of tribal students in NM.

Currently a sixteen-member council advises the secretary and assistant secretary of education on implementation of the provisions to the Indian Education Act.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SB 18 does not provide for an appropriation.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

IAD reports that the Fort Sill Tribe consists of about 670 tribal members. Fifty percent of the members are over the age of 18. Approximately, 300 live in Oklahoma, the rest are spread across the United States, England, and Puerto Rico. The number of Fort Sill Apaches living in NM is small. IAD was not able to provide the number of Fort Sill Tribe members residing in the state.

IAD expresses concern that the Fort Sill Apache Tribe may be overrepresented in both of these councils due to the small number of tribal members present in this state.

Another concern expressed by IAD on the addition of another member in the Suicide Prevention Advisory Council relates to the increase from eleven members to twelve members, thus preventing a majority decision if the vote is split in half. Additionally, a majority of council members constitute a quorum to take action as the council. If the Fort Sill Apache Tribe attends a council meeting when fewer than twelve members are present, the vote impact would be greater.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Although the IAD raises questions concerning the lack of funding for administrative support relating to coordinating advisory board meetings and travel costs, it appears that such costs have been absorbed by the Tribe and or the Public Education Department in past years.

BD/bb