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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, M **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/25/16 **LAST UPDATED** 2/04/16 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Environmental Education Week **SB** SJM4/aSCONC

ANALYST Liu

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$70.0 - \$80.0	\$0.0	\$70.0-\$80.0	Nonrecurring	Other State Funds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM 4

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

- Department of Game and Fish (DGF)
- Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
- Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
- Public Education Department (PED)
- State Land Office (SLO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SCONC Amendment

The Senate Conservation Committee amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 4:

- adds the New Mexico Department of Agriculture as another lead agency for the feasibility study;
- adds the Department of Environment, Department of Cultural Affairs, and the cooperative extension service of New Mexico State University as cooperating agencies for the feasibility study;
- strikes the resolution requesting the Public Education Department to provide a link on its website to the New Mexico environmental literacy plan as a resource for teachers; and
- adds the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment, Department of Cultural Affairs, and the cooperative extension service of New Mexico State University as recipients for copies of the memorial.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 4 requests the Governor’s Office declare a week in April “Environmental Education Week” to encourage outdoor learning experiences and environmental education programming at schools for one hour that week. SJM 3 also requests DGF to lead a study involving the State Parks division of EMNRD, State Land Office, Department of Health, PED, and CYFD on the feasibility of creating an environmental education grant program to increase environmental education opportunities for New Mexico students. Additionally, the joint memorial asks PED to provide a link on its website to the New Mexico environmental literacy plan as a resource for teachers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to DGF, a declaration of an "Environmental Education Week" would not have any significant fiscal implications to DGF, a feasibility study focused on creating an environmental education grant program would result in expenditure for the department and collaborating agencies. Based on cost estimates of similar studies, about \$70 thousand to \$80 thousand would be needed to appropriately complete an environmental education grant program feasibility study.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED provided the following:

SJM 4 states that environmental education provides an effective means to teach common core state standards (CCSS) and next generation science standards (NGSS); and increases student achievement in all subjects; and provides a theme for interdisciplinary project-based learning.

SJM 4 requests the declaration of an Environmental Education Week” where K–12 teachers will spend an hour per day to teach students outdoors during that week.

- Friday April 22, 2016, is Earth Day and most schools have environment-related activities to coincide.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DGF provided the following:

DGF would be able to utilize programs already developed by the department. Currently, DGF provides a number of programs for youth focused on conservation including: Trout in the Classroom, National Archery in the Schools, Hunter Education, Aquatic Resource Education, Wildlife Conservation Education, and several other outdoor, skills-based education programs.

EMNRD provided the following:

State Parks is already implementing an environmental education program through park-based activities, the Outdoor Classroom Program, and the Kids ‘n Parks transportation grant program. SJM 4 could enhance the current Kids ‘n Parks transportation grant program, which is targeted strictly for State Parks, and provide opportunities for other agencies to participate.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Conducting such a study would require staff members of the participating agencies to collaborate with other agencies and with stakeholders, research and gather data, and draft the feasibility study document. Alternatively, the agencies could hire a third party consultant to produce the feasibility study if the expertise or resources are not available in-house; however, without additional funding to the departments, existing resources must be reallocated to accomplish this task.

DUPLICATION

This joint memorial duplicates HJM 3.

SL/jle