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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 1/24/2018

**SPONSOR** Gonzales/Rodella      **LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_      **HB** 166

**SHORT TITLE** Rio Grande Gorge Bridge Security Presence      **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Edwards

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
\$0	\$156.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$0	Up to \$288.0	Up to \$288.0	Up to \$576.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 166 makes an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety of \$156 thousand to fund three full-time officers to maintain a security presence at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge vendor area.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$156 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY19 shall revert to the general fund.

DPS submitted the following fiscal analysis:

There are two possible fiscal scenarios:

1. DPS would be required to re-assign three existing officers; or
2. DPS would hire new officers during FY19 and assign them to these duties.

The cost for each officer, including salary, benefits, equipment, and other needs is \$96 thousand at the entry level. The appropriation of \$156 thousand would be short \$132 thousand of the actual cost to supply three new officers.

Onboarding new officers generally occurs only through the annual recruit school. The FY19 recruit school will begin in July 2018. Newly graduated officers then undergo a 12 week field training program. Three additional officers will not be available until the end of March 2019. The cost of training a new officer is \$54 thousand at minimum. The cost for salaries, benefits, equipment, and other needs would be \$24.1 thousand per officer, a total of \$72.2 thousand, for the last quarter of FY19. In this scenario the expenses would be \$234.2 thousand, short \$78.2 thousand of the actual expense.

Further it is unclear if the intention of the bill is to have the New Mexico State Police continue the security function past FY19. If this is the case, then the fiscal impact would be \$288 thousand per year.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Rio Grande Gorge Bridge has been a location for suicide in recent years. According to an Albuquerque Journal article dated January 23, 2018, states 10 suicides occurred in the area over the last two years.

DPS stated the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) currently provides a proactive and reactive response to public safety in Taos County. The goal is to provide efficient and effective public safety service to all within the state of NM. NMSP does not have sufficient man power to facilitate a full time contingency of three officers dedicated solely to security at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge.

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

It is unclear why this duty could not be carried out by the Taos Police Department.

**TRE/sb**