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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Brantley/Terrazas</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
SHORT TITLE <u>Southern NM Communication Infrastructure</u>	ORIGINAL DATE <u>1/27/2025</u>
	BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 51</u>
	ANALYST <u>Hilla</u>

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$3,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 51

Senate Bill 51 (SB51) appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for the purpose of constructing communication towers, including radio and cellular towers, in the counties of Dona Ana, Luna, and Hidalgo.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB51 likely provides too little time for using the funds. Construction of cellular towers is a capital project, and capital projects tend to take a longer to complete. A longer period for expenditure would allow the counties to fully construct the towers and not revert funds before tower completion.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Doña Ana and Luna counties received capital appropriations for expenditure in FY25 through FY28 for similar efforts. Doña Ana County received \$100 thousand to plan, purchase, and replace handheld and mobile radio units and related infrastructure, including the installation of handheld and mobile radio systems in vehicles and at fixed locations, for county facilities and public safety departments in the county, in addition to \$25 thousand to purchase and equip a public safety radio system for Mesilla. Luna County received \$230 thousand to plan, design, construct, and upgrade public safety communications equipment, including towers. Hidalgo County did not receive a capital appropriation last year.

EH/rl/hg/sgs