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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/09

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Honor Buffalo Soldiers SB 83

ANALYST Varela

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$75.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Veteran Services (DVS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 83 appropriates \$75 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) for the purpose of placing a monument to honor the legacy of buffalo soldiers who have historically served in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

Senate Bill 83 provides that \$25 thousand in matching funds must be made available from other sources to complete the project.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 1866, Congress created six African American army units. These units became the first African American professional soldiers in the US Military. The nickname “buffalo soldier” began with the Cheyenne warriors in 1867 out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th Cavalry. Over time, buffalo soldier became a generic term for all African American soldiers. Buffalo soldiers served in New Mexico for eight years, from 1867 to 1975, mostly in the southern and southeastern areas of New Mexico. They also served under General John J. Pershing’s campaign to capture Pancho Villa, the famous raider of Columbus, NM.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Senate Bill 83 does not specify where the monument would be placed.

PTV/mc