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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/09

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Veterans' Services Flagpoles SB 87

ANALYST Varela

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

No Response

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 87 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the veterans' services department for the purchase of flagpoles for the state funeral honors and burial program and state veterans' cemeteries, monuments and museums.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) contained in this bill is a

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recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

This bill does not address the additional operating costs of maintenance or replacement of flagpoles beyond FY10.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Many cemeteries around the state do not have flagpoles installed. Not all families of deceased New Mexico veterans have chosen the National Cemetery in Santa Fe as a final resting place. The appropriation contained within Senate Bill 87 would provide funding to enhance the grounds of cemeteries statewide with flagpoles, as well as provide for this equipment for the honors and burial program.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

According to the FIR report in 2007 relating to Senate Bill 54, the department raises the question that the passage of this act could possibly violate the anti-donation clause of the New Mexico Constitution, Article IV., Section 31, Appropriations for Charitable, Educational, etc. purposes in those cases where cemeteries are privately owned.

PV/mc