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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/09

SPONSOR Leavell LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Hobbs Crime Lab Expenses SB 102

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$380.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorney (AODA)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
 General Services Department (GSD)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)]

No Response

New Mexico Municipal League

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 102 appropriates \$380.1 from the general fund to the local government division of the Department of Finance and Administration for the city of Hobbs for expenses for the Hobbs crime lab.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the DFA Local Government Division, this funding is needed due to a project cost overrun, and the city is asking for a one time reimbursement.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Administrative Office of the Courts maintains that continued funding of the crime lab will

relieve the State Crime Labs in Santa Fe and Las Cruces of the work they would otherwise have to do, at a time when all of the labs are over capacity for timely analysis of evidence submitted.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the Department of Public Safety, the Hobbs lab is part of a State Forensic Lab system and the intentions are to better serve Hobbs and the surrounding area, eventually expanding the Hobbs satellite lab services for the benefit of the lab system. The Department of Public Safety is leasing the facility from the City of Hobbs.

There appears to be no fiscal implication to the Department of Public Safety, since these funds are targeted to the City of Hobbs through local government.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

According to the DFA Local Government Division, the city of Hobbs currently collects \$3.0 per month rent from the Department of Public Safety. If the amount of \$380.1 is not appropriated, it could increase the monthly rent that they charge the state now per their lease agreement. This could add up to considerably more money over time for the state.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Is this an operating expense of the Department of Public Safety, and should this be appropriated in the DPS budget as an increase in rent?

CH/mt