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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/11/15

SPONSOR SCONC LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Change Interstate Stream Commission Members SB 467/ SCONCS

ANALYST Sanogo

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

The Senate Conservation Committee (SCONC) substitute for Senate Bill 467 would revise the Interstate Stream Commission’s (ISC) membership and criteria for appointment of new commissioners. It adds a requirement for a member from a nongovernmental conservation advocacy organization.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impacts.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

OSE argues that changing the membership of the ISC would cause disruption to the commission’s operations at a time when “New Mexico is facing one of the most severe droughts in over a century and is defending significant external threats to the use of its water.” The agency contends that the current membership has significant individual expertise across a wide range of water resources issues, including: irrigated agriculture, ranching, rural water, major city water use, mining and oil and gas, and Pueblo water resources management.

The agency further argues that the current membership is well versed in the details of ISC activities to lessen the impact of, to proactively address endangered species and water user conflicts, to ensure continued interstate compact compliance, and to manage litigation threats over the state’s water.