

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/19/2015
 LAST UPDATED 3/04/2015 HB _____

SPONSOR Cisneros

SHORT TITLE Importance of Acequias SJM 18/aSRC

ANALYST McReynolds

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
 Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment of SJM 18 includes language in the memorial to give more history of the creation of the New Mexico Acequia Association and its important role in legislative initiatives to strengthen acequia governance and water management, as well as the establishment of regional acequia associations to advocate for and provide leadership at local and statewide levels.

The amendment also strikes lines 16 through 19, on page 3, in their entirety and inserts the following in lieu of these:

Be It Further Resolved that the appropriate legislative interim committee be requested to consult with the Acequia Commission, the New Mexico Acequia Association and regional acequia associations as needed to identify issues to be addressed during the forthcoming legislative interim.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 18 recognizes the economic and cultural importance of acequias in New Mexico, and requests the New Mexico legislative council to direct the appropriate interim committee dealing with land grant issues or water and natural resource issues to dedicate one or

Senate Joint Memorial 18 – Page 2

more meeting days solely to issues affecting acequia and community ditch associations. SJM 18 also asks that the acequia commission prioritize issues of importance in the forthcoming interim and work with regional and state acequia associations in developing these priorities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) states that SJM 18 recognizes the “growing concern that water transfers from traditional agricultural uses, such as acequias, to meet the needs of increasing municipal and industrial uses will lead to a loss of community based production agriculture.”

KM/bb/aml