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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR McCamley ORIGINAL DATE _____
LAST UPDATED 01/23/15 HB 13

SHORT TITLE State Children's Song SB _____

ANALYST Sanogo

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

General Services Department (GSD)

NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

HB 13 proposes to declare the words and music of "Green Chile" written by Melanie Humphreys as the official state children's song.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impacts.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) has concerns that one song, however worthy, is being declared as the official state children's song with no opportunity for other songwriters to be afforded the opportunity to have their work considered for this honor under a fair and equitable statewide competition (see "alternatives").

The agency has indicated that one stanza of the song appears to criticize the city of Las Cruces ("When you think Las Cruces is too boring,") and questions whether such sentiment should be enacted in state statute. Given that the official New Mexico state question is, "Red or Green?" which celebrates both red and green chile, DCA expresses strong concern that this song disenfranchises all red chile advocates as it only celebrates green chile.

ALTERNATIVES

DCA has suggested a statewide competition to allow all New Mexico songwriters to submit children’s songs for consideration as the official children’s song. One possible avenue would be to have the Governor-appointed Music Commission, which meets six times a year, to conduct this competition.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In the recent decade, the production level of locally-grown NM chile has fallen sharply, largely due to competition from imports. The proposed legislation could potentially generate increased local demand for NM agricultural products. The following data is provided by the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

New Mexico Chile Production 2012-2013 (Red and Green, Long Varieties)											
Chile Variety	Acreage Harvested		Yield/Acre (tons)		Production (tons)		Avg. Price / Ton		Production Value / Acre		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	
G Mild	2,840	2,800	16.2	13.4	46,008	37,520	\$ 477	\$ 542	\$ 7,727	\$ 7,263	
	Hot	1,230	1,400	16.0	12.9	19,680	18,060	\$ 606	\$ 578	\$ 9,696	\$ 7,456
R M/H	2,140	1,900	1.4	1.6	2,996	3,040	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,017	\$ 2,842	\$ 3,227	
Total	6,210	6,100			68,684	58,620					

The table indicates that the production value from one acre of green chile far exceeds that of red chile. Assuming that NM producers are price-takers in the competitive global chile market, it would actually be in the long-term economic interests of the state to foster demand for green chile, to the unfortunate disenfranchisement of red chile advocates everywhere.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Red chile advocates will not have their feelings hurt.

AIS/bb/aml