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### FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Macko	DATE TYPED:	02/03/00	HB	444
SHORT TITLE:	Historical Codes in Classroom			SB	
				ANALYST:	Baca

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 444 amends the Historical Codes Act to mandate that, to the extent funds are available, each local school board shall post in a prominent place in a non-discriminatory manner at least one historical code in each regular classroom.

### Significant Issues

As used in the Historical Codes Act, "historical codes" means:

- A. the Ten Commandments;
- B. the code of Hammurabi;
- C. any injunctive compendium from the Koran;
- D. any compendium of Confucian teachings;
- E. Any excerpts from the Bhagavad-Gita;
- F. The teachings of Gautama Buddha or his followers; or
- G. Any other teachings representing disparate ethno-cultural or religious backgrounds.

Given the religious backgrounds of the vast majority of New Mexico's residents, one may surmise that the intent of the bill is to mandate the posting of the Ten Commandments. If that is the intent, the "mandate" approach may pose some constitutional questions as well as becoming the potential source of controversy in some communities.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Is it the intent of the bill sponsor to "mandate" the posting of the Ten Commandments" or any other one of the items listed in the Historical Codes Act?

LB/sb