NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.

Only the most recent FIR version, excluding attachments, is available on the Intranet. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Taylor JG		DATE TYPED:	02/21/01	НВ	758	
SHORT TITLE: Certain Powers		to Conservation Offi	icers	SB		
			ANAL	YST:	Dotson	
		<u>APPROP</u>	<u>RIATION</u>			
Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact			Recurring	Fund
		FY01	FY02	(or Non-Rec	Affected
FY01	FY02	1101	1102			
FY01	FY02	N	l			
) Indicate Expenditu	N	l			

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Public Safety and Game and Fish Department.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 758 amends the enforcement powers of Game and Fish law enforcement officers. It grants then direct enforcement authority over state statutes regarding negligent use of a deadly weapon, criminal damage to property, evading or obstructing an officer and camping next to a man-made waterhole.

Significant Issues

Increasing the authority of Conservation Officers may help meet public expectations in providing a safe and lawful environment. The extra effort and number of circumstances this authority would be exercised are limited and the effect on the primary duties of Conservation Officers would be negligible. The criminal sections covered in HB 758 are ones the public would reasonably anticipate a Game and Fish officer to enforce.

According to the Department of Public Safety, a positive fiscal impact on their department could result. For example, if a Game and Fish officer encounters a violation while on normal duty, the Game and Fish officer may have to depend on a State Police officer to come and enforce the specific statutory sections. With the addition of this language, New Mexico State Police officers will be available for back up and assistance, but would not be needed for primary enforcement.

House Bill 758 -- Page 2

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Is additional training of Conservation Officers required to fulfill this legislation?

PD/njw:ar