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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Carraro DATE TYPED: 03/04/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Land Parcels for State Veterans' Cemetery SB 609
 ANALYST: Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 50.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02			
	\$ (50.0)		Recurring	General Fund
	\$ 50.0		Recurring	State Veterans' Cemetery Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission (VSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

This bill appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to create the State Veterans' Cemetery Fund for the purpose of establishing a state veterans' cemetery. Money in the fund is appropriated to VCS and will not revert to any other fund. The appropriation for fiscal year 2002 is to be used for conducting a study of parcels of state land in Rio Rancho in Sandoval county and other available state lands to assess their suitability for a state veterans' cemetery.

Significant Issues

At the present, the federal Veterans' Administration has no plans for establishing new or expanding existing veterans' cemeteries in New Mexico. However, the New Mexico congressional delegation has expressed support to do so. It is estimated that the cemetery in Santa Fe will use all its available space in approximately ten years. States may establish their own veterans' cemeteries. The federal government will provide grants for establishing and initial maintenance assistance to state veterans' cemeteries. This process is being used to convert the state owned cemetery in Fort Stanton to a state veterans' cemetery. Once the grant funds for a specific location are used, maintenance and administrative costs are state responsibility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance shall not revert.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

VCS will have to establish the fiscal year 2002 budget from the Veterans' Cemetery Fund through a budget adjustment request. VCS will have to determine the best and cost effective method of conducting the survey of available state lands to find candidate locations for a state veterans' cemetery.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Page 3, line 14, should be amended to read: "cemetery. The veterans' service commission will report its findings to the forty-fifth legislature, second session. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance shall not".

GAC/ar