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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Sandoval DATE TYPED: 3/12/03 HB 603/aHVEC/aSRC

SHORT TITLE: Hand Tallying of Ballots by Computer SB _____

ANALYST: Chavez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			See Narrative	Non-Recurring	County

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Secretary of State (SOS)
LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Amendment strikes the House Voters and Elections Committee Amendments. The Amendment requires the Secretary of State to approve a county's use of computer-based tally sheets if the county submits the software program to be used for tallying to the secretary at least sixty days prior to the election and the secretary determines that the program is acceptable for the proposed use. Prior to this amendment the Secretary of State could approve a county's use of computer-based tally sheets.

Synopsis of HVEC

The House Voters and Elections Committee removes the requirement that the Secretary of State determine that the computer software program meets election standards.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 603 amends Section 1-11-14 NMSA 1978 to permit a county's use of computer-based tally sheets if it is determined by the Secretary of State that the software program meets election standards.

Significant Issues

The bill does not provide guidelines for the counties *prior* to their purchase of computer software. For cost-effectiveness, counties should be given some guidance on what computer software will be acceptable to the Secretary of State .

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation. However, counties who desire to use computer-based tally sheets will incur costs for the purchase of computer software.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Allowing for hand tallying of ballots by approved computer systems may optimize time. There would be minimal administrative implications for the Secretary of State's office.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill may be modified to give some guidance to the counties prior to their purchase of computer software.

FC/ls:prr:njw