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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Miera DATE TYPED: 2/19/03 HB HJM 48

SHORT TITLE: Explora Center as Educational Resource SB _____

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

State Department of Education (SDE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 48 requests that the Director of the Explora Science Center and Children's Museum (Explora) and the State Department of Public Education (SDE) develop procedures for informing school districts about the availability of Explora as an educational resource and for assisting school districts with planning overnight visits to Explora, and that the Director of Explora and a representative from the SDE report to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) prior to October 31, 2003.

Significant Issues

According to SDE, the Explora Science Center is a private non-profit organization that exists through a public \private partnership with families, business and the City of Albuquerque. Explora uses interactive experiences to develop discovery methods and to promote lifelong learning.

The following are among the opportunities offered at the Explora Center:

- More than 200 interactive exhibits and activities;

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- Science demonstrations;
- Art activities;
- Teaching Theater;
- Seasonal classes;
- Classes for school groups;
- Professional development for educators; and
- Community outreach programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Existing staff from the SDE and Explora will cooperatively develop the procedures to disseminate information about Explora and procedures to assist School districts plan overnight visits to the Center.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SDE reports that the resources being developed at the Explora! Center utilize the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards and will provide opportunities for teachers to develop their professional skills and abilities to deliver more effective instruction.

KRB/njw