

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Begaye DATE TYPED 1/24/05 HB 12

SHORT TITLE Conference for Native Language Authors SB _____

ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (Amount in \$000s)

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	10.0			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Indian Affairs

No comments received at the time the FIR was prepared from Cultural Affairs Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 12 appropriates \$10 thousand from the general fund to the Cultural Affairs Department in FY06 for the purpose of contracting for a conference in New Mexico where authors from New Mexico, elsewhere in the United States, and from abroad who write stories in their native language to share their work with other authors and the public and to share their experiences to improve their writing and disseminate their work to a wider audience.

Significant Issues

According to the Department of Indian Affairs, a Native American authors conference would attract a diverse, indigenous audience and bring some economic benefits to the State of New Mexico. HB 12 may provide an added benefit to tribes by supporting a forum for discussing strategies for native language preservation, as well as to encourage more Native American authors.

The intent of this bill is not clear in its text. Would the funding be used strictly to promote greater publication in Native American languages? Is the intent broader, such as to promote publication in any indigenous—in contrast to externally imposed— language around the globe including authors who publish in gaelic, celtic, welsh, basque and other language traditions that are engaged in a similar effort to preserve their languages, cultures and traditions?

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$10 thousand in FY06 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

It would be useful for DCA to partner with tribal governments, tribal colleges, and New Mexico institutions of higher education in developing this conference.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

It appears that the bill is targeting promotion of literature written in Native American languages; however, the bill text is much broader—including any individuals “who write in their native language” which includes persons of anglo descent who write in English. If the conference is to include only Native American authors, lines 12 and 20 should be amended to capitalize native and insert “American” thereafter. Line 20 would also be amended to delete “their.” If the intent is to include Indians from other nations (i.e. Innuits from Canada or persons from tribes located in Central and South America), the bill might be amended to replace “native language” with “aboriginal language.”

DH/lg