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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR King DATE TYPED 2/07/05 HB 371

SHORT TITLE Night Sky Protection SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$80.0		Indeterminate	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 371 appropriates \$80 thousand from the general fund to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department for night sky and astronomy programs...

Significant Issues

Night sky programs are being implemented at state parks across the state. These programs not only focus on protecting parks from light pollution, the also implement an important educational component.

State Parks Division reports this appropriation would allow SPD to double its night sky programming, to properly maintain and update its equipment, and to ensure all staff and volunteer program presenters are properly trained. Program attendees would be more attuned to the night sky as a valuable resource and more likely to help in night sky protection efforts – perhaps undertaking some efforts voluntarily at their homes. This appropriation also would speed up reduction of light pollution in our parks, each of which could then demonstrate practical ways to reduce light pollution in communities around New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$80 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This amount is included as an executive request for a special appropriation.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SPD staff already spends time coordinating night sky efforts and additional administrative implications are minimal.

PA/sb