

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 Madalena DATE TYPED 03/04/05 HB 814/aHCPAC

SHORT TITLE Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Visitors Center SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$250.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Indian Affairs (DIA)
 New Mexico Tourism Department (NMED)
 Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee Amendment

On page on lines 18 and 19 strike “newly designated official New Mexico” that referred to a visitors’ center.

On page 1, line 20, after Albuquerque insert “to promote the state of New Mexico and Indian cultural tourism”.

Significant Issues of Amendment

By removing the words “official New Mexico” the implication is the visitors center takes on a character different than current centers. This may also mean the center will fall under a different set of operational criteria than current centers. It may be valuable to define what entity should assume responsibility of the center operation, the Indian Affairs Department, the Pueblo Cultural Center or possibly the Tourism Department that manages “official centers”.

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 814 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of operating a new official New Mexico visitors center at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Significant Issues

The Department of Cultural Affairs notes.

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a well-attended cultural attraction located on 12th Street, NW, in Albuquerque. The center is directed by New Mexico's 19 Pueblo governors, houses a performing space, museum, gift shop and restaurant. The center hosts events ranging from Indian ceremonies and dances to arts and crafts fairs.

The Tourism Department continues.

The state's Tourism Department operates nine official Visitor Information Centers located at key entry points around the state. The nine Visitor Information Centers are responsible for promoting tourism to the over 900,000 people who pass through the doors each year.

The state does not operate an official Native American Visitor Information Center. The department has in the past worked with Jemez Pueblo's Walatowa Visitor Center in the form of a MOU.

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center attracts several thousand visitors annually and would be a good location for a tribal visitor center. The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center functions as a gateway to the pueblos and gives out information to the pueblos' potential visitors regarding rules and etiquette while on tribal land. It serves as a central location for visitors who are interested in visiting tribal land and could possibly be a natural outlet for the promotion of other tourist attractions or events in our state.

The Indian Affairs Department adds.

The Center is a state chartered not-for-profit corporation that is owned by the 19 Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico.

- The Center houses a museum, the Pueblo House interactive children's museum, the Institute of Pueblo Indian Studies, a gallery, and archives and storage.
- The Center is the only museum in the country that exhibits artifacts from all the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.
- The Center receives more than 300,000 visitors annually, many of whom are from out of state and contribute to New Mexico's tourism economy.
- Visitors are especially attracted to the Center's weekly Pueblo dance performances and arts and crafts demonstrations.
- The Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc. (IPM), a sister corporation, supports the Center's café, gift and smoke shops, and conference and office spaces.
- Together, the Center and IPM employ 62 full-time and 12 part-time employees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DIA makes the observation.

HB 814 directs that the appropriation to the Indian Affairs Department. The Tourism Department may be better equipped to administer, monitor, provide training and technical assistance and to establish and oversee appropriate policies and procedures for official State tourism centers. Appropriating the funds to the Tourism Department will better serve the intent of HB 814.

MW/lg