F I S C A L   I M P A C T   R E P O R T

SPONSOR   HAGC   **DATE TYPED**   3/9/05   **HB**   1134/HAGCS

SHORT TITLE   Public Peace, Health, Safety and Welfare   **SB**

ANALYST   Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION
(in $000s)

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	**FY06**	**FY05**	**FY06**		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
LFC Files

SUMMARY

  Synopsis of Bill

In the HAGC substitute for HB1134, the chile and pinto bean would no longer be statutorily the official state vegetables. Instead, the chile would be made the official state fruit and pinto bean would be made the official state legume. Additionally, the bill would make the hot air balloon the official state aircraft.

  Significant Issues

Horticulturists classify the chile pepper as a fruit. Botanists classify it as a berry. The general public tends to consider the green chile a vegetable and red chile a spice. Chile peppers are part of the nightshade family, related to tomatoes, potatoes and eggplants but not to black pepper. However, when Columbus first arrived in the New World, he believed he had arrived in the Spice Islands in the East Indies. Therefore, he called the natives "Indians" and the chile "pepper," thinking it was black pepper.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There would be minimal fiscal impact to update state documents (particularly the New Mexico Blue Book) to reflect the new state fruit, legume and aircraft.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Any ideas for a new state vegetable?

DH/njw