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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Altamirano DATE TYPED 2/11/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Office of State Historian Programs SB 399

ANALYST Medina

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$755.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 404
 Duplicates SB 598 in purpose, but not in appropriation amount
 Duplicates SB 607
 Duplicates HB 781

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From
 Commission of Public Records

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 399 appropriates \$755.0 from the general fund to the State Commission of Public Records for the purpose of enhancing the New Mexico history web site project, enhance the New Mexico history publications history series, implement a New Mexico history scholars program for fellowships and a lecture program, and to implement the New Mexico centennial farms program and employ its director.

Significant Issues

The Commission of Public Records did not submit an agency analysis for this bill because three

items in this bill are being addressed in three separate bills. However, the \$120.0 appropriation for the New Mexico centennial farms program is not addressed in any other bill.

- **NM History Website:**

The bill would assist the Office of the State Historian staff in content development (research, writing, editing, etc.). Given their other responsibilities, time to devote to content development will inevitably be limited and realization of the purpose of the site – to provide an easily accessible, reliable and encompassing source for information about the state’s rich history – will be deferred. The intent of the appropriation for the NM History web site is to contract with a project manager and content researchers and reviewers as well as a web design firm to provide workload relief to existing staff.

- **NM History Publication Series:**

According to the Commission of Public Records, the availability of authoritative historical works on various New Mexico themes that could be of use to educators and scholars could potentially strengthen the teaching of New Mexico history at the secondary and post-secondary levels. These works could also prove valuable sources of information on NM history for students and anyone interested in the state’s rich history.

- **New Mexico History Scholars Program:**

According to the Commission of Public Records, the appropriation would be used to fund fellowships that would encourage research in the State Records Center and Archives’ premier collections by scholars. The agency would establish the criteria for award of the fellowships through rule, although the appropriation is based on an average stipend of \$2.5 per month. The term of the fellowship would be a minimum of one month and a maximum of three. As one requirement for holding a fellowship, each fellow would be asked to give a formal lecture. The remainder of the appropriation (estimated at \$15.0) would be used to meet operational expenses associated with the lectures.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The intent of the appropriation for the publication series is to use the funds appropriated to produce the first three in a series of ten publications. The first three volumes then would be made available for purchase (pursuant to the agency’s resale program authorized in Section 14-3-8.1 NMSA 1978). Revenue from sales would be deposited to the agency’s revolving fund and used to defray costs of producing future volumes in the series.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$755.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

Continuing Appropriations

The LFC FY06 appropriation recommendation is balanced between revenues and expenditures and any increase in recurring funding must be offset by reductions in other areas of the recommendation. The Legislature must consider all priorities and funding requirements to find revenue to support this legislation.

DUPLICATION

Duplicates SB 404 (State Historian NM History Website)

Duplicates SB 598 in purpose, but not in appropriation amount (NM History Website--\$200.0)

Duplicates SB 607 (NM History Publication Series)

Duplicates HB 781 (New Mexico History Scholars Program)

ALTERNATIVES

The duplicate bills mentioned above could be considered individually.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

Further development of the New Mexico History Website would continue with current resources available. The agency states that the breadth of historical material and the work it takes to integrate this material into the web site (research, scanning and data entry) require an expanded scope of work and additional resources. Furthermore, if the NM History Scholars Program is not funded, the effort to promote research in the archival collections by scholars and realize the concomitant deeper appreciation and understanding of the state's history would have to be deferred.

DXM/sb:rs