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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodriguez DATE TYPED 02/10/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Preservation of Chimayo Chile Strain SB 408

ANALYST Ford

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$100.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 448

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Economic Development Department (EDD)

Department of Agriculture

New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission (NMOCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 408 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Economic Development Department (EDD) for the purpose of contracting with a nonprofit cultural asset community development organization administratively based in Santa Fe county, that will work with a Chimayo-based coalition to develop an economic development plan and to begin implementation to preserve, conserve, heirloom and seed bank the Chimayo chile strain.

The EDD shall report the benefits and results of this appropriation to the second session of the 47th legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand 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.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 408 duplicates House Bill 448

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The language of the bill is somewhat vague as to the goal of the bill. Is the intent to conduct studies for generation and preservation of the species? What is the goal of an economic development plan?

The bill appropriates funding for EDD to contract with the community based organization, but the bill does not specify whether EDD can use any of this appropriation to cover the administrative costs of developing the contract and reporting the results to the legislature.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

EDD warns that the Chimayo strain of chile seed stock will deplete over time and perhaps disappear. Small chile growers and farmers in the Chimayo valley may lose a traditional livelihood which provides them with supplemental income. The Department of Agriculture notes that the Chimayo chile carries a marketing value and is specifically recognized and preferred by many consumers.

EDD notes that New Mexico State University (NMSU) has done substantial work through its agricultural extension program to work with small farmers for the development and improvement of seed banks and stocks.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Does this appropriation duplicate efforts by NMSU?

What are the specific goals of the appropriation?

EF/sb