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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Robinson DATE TYPED 2/16/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Office of Archaeological Studies SB 553

ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (in \$000s)

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$150.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Cultural Affairs Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 553 appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the Cultural Affairs Department (DCA) in FY06 for salaries, personnel, and operating expenses for the Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) in the Museum of New Mexico.

Significant Issues

DCA noted that the OAS conducts archaeological field and laboratory studies throughout the Southwest and provides specialized support in archaeological dating, pottery studies, ethnobotany and ethnography. The OAS operates as an enterprise, receiving no general fund appropriations for many tasks related to its responsibilities. For example, no funding is available to respond to public requests, because all staff time is dedicated to specific highway and other capital projects—a requirement of the funding source from which they are paid. SB553 would allow OAS to perform more services and offer more programs to the general public, such as providing educational outreach programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 would revert to the general fund.

DH/lg