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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto DATE TYPED 02/09/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Navajo Veteran Homesite Surveys and Clearances SB 755

ANALYST Weber

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$86.5			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Indian Affairs Department

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 755 appropriates \$86.5 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of assisting the Department of Navajo veterans affairs to obtain archaeological clearances and surveys for home sites for indigent veterans in New Mexico.

#### Significant Issues

The Indian Affairs Department indicates.

According to the Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs (DNVA), there is an immediate need for 125 land surveys and 171 archeological clearances to be done in order to provide home site leases to qualifying U.S. Armed Forces veterans on the Navajo Nation. The three Navajo Nation satellite communities, Alamo, Tohajiilee and Ramah, are included in this need. There are a large number of homeless Navajo veterans on the Navajo Nation because of the cumbersome tribal, state and federal processes required to obtain housing assistance in the home areas of these veterans.

Out of the current Navajo Nation population of 250,000, there are more than 16,000 Na-

vajo veterans that have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War I. Members of the Navajo Nation did not become U.S. citizens until 1924, although many Navajos enlisted to defend our country in major wars even before they became citizens. Since World War II, Navajo veterans have had and continue to have difficulties in receiving VA benefits and services they are entitled to. Many of these veterans have lost benefits due to isolation, remoteness, and lack of facilities or infrastructure on the Navajo Nation.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Performance measures and targets should be included to assess the success of the program.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$86.5 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.

MW/yr