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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Feldman DATE TYPED 3/12/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Electronic Waste SB SJM 9

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			\$0.1	Non-Recurring	General Fund

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Environment Department (ED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 9 requests the secretary of ED requested to appoint a task force composed of the ED, local governments, recycling coalitions, local solid waste authorities, the private computer industry, the city of Albuquerque and the national laboratories to assess the problem of electronic waste.

The task force must report its findings and make recommendations to the appropriate committee of the legislature by December 1, 2005.

Significant Issues

According to a recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study, electronics make up about 1% of the municipal solid waste nationwide and further research shows that electronic waste is growing three times faster than other types of municipal waste. The National Safety Council predicts that consumers will discard 250 million computers over the next five years and mobile phones will be tossed out at a rate of 130 million each year. Electronics require special handling for disposal because they may include hazardous materials such as lead, chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc and brominated flame retardants.

Computers represent a rapidly growing waste stream. Queries to the solid waste bureau regarding disposal of this type of waste top the list of requests for information received by the bureau. Electronic waste contains dangerous substances such as lead, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls that can pollute air and water. This waste is solid waste as defined in the Solid Waste Act and if it contains these and other substances and is no longer used for its intended purpose, may be a hazardous waste under the state Hazardous Waste Act. Furthermore, disposing of these materials in a landfill reduces valuable landfill capacity and is costly. Storing, treating, and disposing of hazardous waste is also an expensive venture. Recycling can be a viable alternative and prevents waste of valuable resources. Numerous private industries are now offering collection and recycling services at no charge when the actual collection logistics are organized and supported by local governments and authorities.

The ED has organized an internal e-waste task force to address the safe disposal and viable recycling of electronic waste generated by the Agency. This task force may provide background support and information to the task force directed by the Memorial.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

ED will incur costs such as staff time and per diem to travel to out of town meetings and data collection through surveys.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ED should be able to handle the requirements in this memorial as part of on-going responsibilities.

DW/yr:lg