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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Papen DATE TYPED 3/11/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE "Colonias Day" SB SJM 34

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			NFI		

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 34 resolves that February 4, 2005 be recognized as "Colonias Day" in the legislature.

The memorial requests Governor Richardson and his cabinet to work with the board of directors of the New Mexico association of counties to assist local efforts to improve the quality of life in the state and to add improvements for rural communities and colonias to the state's priority action list of programs for legislative funding.

Significant Issues

The board of directors of the New Mexico association of counties comprises the elected officials who are responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the residents of New Mexico's 33 counties and these board members are asked to represent and address the needs of these residents.

The administration of Governor Richardson is to be commended for targeting statewide improvements in education, water issues, infrastructure and economic development, and a natural extension of those initiatives would be the addition of infrastructure improvements for rural and colonias communities to the statewide priority action list

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Rural and colonias communities are sorely lacking in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and sanitation services, and by working together, the state and individual counties could lift these communities up and provide better futures for the children in the communities who will in turn raise their own families on family properties, thereby making meaningful progress toward enhancing the most basic of human needs in these challenged communities.

Residents of rural and colonias communities statewide face harsh challenges on a daily basis, but they are proud people who are reluctant to ask for help.

Individual counties continue to undertake independent and ambitious infrastructure improvement plans designed to enhance social and economic development opportunities for all residents of New Mexico.

By initiating a statewide improvement program for rural and colonias communities, the state could partner with the thirty-three counties to empower these small communities and dramatically improve the quality of life in them, while simultaneously creating new entrepreneurial zones that will complement existing projects in incorporated municipalities.

DW/yr