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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez DATE TYPED 03/04/2005 HB _____
SHORT TITLE Nonboundary Survey License Standards SM 33
ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION

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

Relates To: SB 163 & HB 99

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 33 requests that the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors through its Professional Surveying Committee develop policy and standards for the licensure of non-boundary surveying disciplines.

Significant Issues

The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors indicates that the development of policy and standards for the licensure of “non-boundary surveying disciplines” would be a significant undertaking by the Professional Surveying Committee of the Board and would fundamentally change the licensing of professional surveyors. Such an undertaking would need to include the development of appropriate licensing models, to include: education, specific experience requirements, and development of psychometrically-sound examination(s) in specific specialties such as geodesy and photogrammetry for the protection of the public.

A determination would need to be made as to whether the process would license individuals as a professional surveyor with unique competencies or to license by specific disciplines. Assigned titles would need to be carefully considered to ensure that the public is not misinformed or is not

confused on the qualifications of the professional. Since this would be an expansion of licensing for an entire new group of individuals that are expanding into new mapping and measurement-based disciplines that have not been separately regulated, it would require consideration of grandfathering of individuals currently providing some of these services as well as the current practices of licensed professional engineers and surveyors.

The examination portion of the post-grandfathering period would create significant concern for the Board since there are no national licensing examinations for geodesists and photogrammetrists. Discipline for practicing outside area of competencies or license would also need to be addressed.

The Board has over the last few years reviewed this matter and found that there is insufficient demand to create a new profession, i.e. licensing of photogrammetrists. In the last few years the board has received only one request to change the licensing requirements. Currently, photogrammetric services are provided to the public through licensed professional engineers and licensed professional surveyors.

The Board of Licensure finds no benefit to the public to create new licensing laws accommodating individuals who already are able to provide their services through engineers and surveyors.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

As outlined above in Significant Issues, a comprehensive review and revision of academic curriculum requirements in surveying education would be required. An analysis of current services provided by professional engineers and surveyors, and how the public would be impacted by a tier structure within surveying, would need to be completed by the Board with input from academia, licensees, professional organizations and the public.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal implications to the Board would be in the expenses incurred by a study group. The board indicates that a new licensing model/process for professional surveyors would in the future be fiscally significant, especially if national examination(s) is not available.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There would be significant administrative implications in providing support services to groups working on policy and standards for licensure.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Related to SB 163 & HB 99 & HB 306.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The board indicates that the creation of a tier system within surveying would likely lead to other groups advocating specialty licensing within the discipline.