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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodella DATE TYPED 2/08/05 HB 447

SHORT TITLE State Historic Railroad SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hadwiger

### APPROPRIATION (in \$000s)

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Cultural Affairs Department

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 447 would designate the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TS) as the official historic railroad of New Mexico.

#### Significant Issues

In 1880, the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad built a narrow-gauge stretch of rail, known as the San Juan extension, to serve the mines of southwestern Colorado. In 1969, the railroad extension was abandoned. In 1970, the states of Colorado and New Mexico jointly purchased the track and line-side structures from Antonito to Chama, nine steam locomotives, over 130 freight and work cars, and the Chama yard and maintenance facility, for \$547,120. The C&TS began hauling tourists the next year. Currently, the Cumbres & Toltec operates 64 miles of that narrow-gauge system, running between Chama, New Mexico and Antonito, Colorado.

The railroad is managed for the states by the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission, an interstate agency authorized by the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Compact, an act approved by Congress on October 24, 1974. The commission is comprised of four commissioners--two from New Mexico and two from Colorado--appointed by the governors of each state. An execu-

tive director administers the commission's affairs, and is the only full-time paid employee.

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is operated by the Rio Grande Railway Preservation Corporation (RGRPC). RGRPC is a not-for-profit New Mexico Corporation formed under Article 509 of the Internal Revenue Code as a supporting organization of the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc. The Friends is a New Mexico Corporation registered as a public charity under sections 501 and 509 of the Internal Revenue Code. RGRPC's mission is, as stated in the 1974 compact between the states of Colorado and New Mexico that governs the property, "to promote the public welfare by encouraging and facilitating recreation and by preserving, as a living museum for future generations, a mode of transportation that helped in the development and promotion of the territories and states."

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad carries about 50,000 passengers each year from Chama, New Mexico to San Antonito, Colorado.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There would be a minor cost for publication of documents and updating state records.

**DH/sb**