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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wirth DATE TYPED 2/23/05 HB 781

SHORT TITLE New Mexico History Scholars Program SB _____

ANALYST Medina

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$75.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 729
 Duplicates a section of Senate Bill 399

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From
 Commission of Public Records

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 781 appropriates \$75.0 from the general fund to the State Commission of Public Records for the purpose of implement a New Mexico history scholars program for fellowships and a lecture program.

Significant Issues

According to the Commission of Public Records, the appropriation for the New Mexico History Scholars Program would be used to fund fellowships that would encourage research in the State Records Center and Archives' premier collections by scholars. The agency would establish the criteria for award of the fellowships through rule, although the appropriation is based on an average stipend of \$2.5 per month. The term of the fellowship would be a minimum of one month and a maximum of three. As one requirement for holding a fellowship, each fellow would be asked to give a formal lecture. The remainder of the appropriation (estimated at \$15.0) would be used to meet operational expenses associated with the lectures.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

The Commission's appropriation request included \$4.4 to contract with nationally recognized authorities on NM history to present five lectures around the state. The request was included in the LFC recommendation.

Continuing Appropriations

The LFC FY06 appropriation recommendation is balanced between revenues and expenditures and any increase in recurring funding must be offset by reductions in other areas of the recommendation. The Legislature must consider all priorities and funding requirements to find revenue to support this legislation.

DUPLICATION

Duplicates Senate Bill 729 and duplicates a section of Senate Bill 399 carrying the same appropriation amount for the same purpose.

ALTERNATIVES

The duplicate bills mentioned above could be considered individually.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If the NM History Scholars Program is not funded, the effort to promote research in the archival collections by scholars and realize the concomitant deeper appreciation and understanding of the state's history would have to be deferred.

DXM/lg