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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/01/06

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Promote Wild Horse Tourism SB 296

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$30.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Tourism Department (TD)
 Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 296 appropriates \$30 thousand to the Tourism Department to promote wild-horse tourism.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$30 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Tourism Department indicates that the national wild horse territories in New Mexico are not well advertised. A large national equestrian tourism market could be reached by better promotion of endangered Spanish-line wild horses located primarily in New Mexico. NMTD supports legislation that promotes additional tourism and educates visitors about the state.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the Department of Game and Fish, depending on the location of the wild horse herds and the time of year, care should be taken that the tourism activity is not contrary to management of native wildlife species found in the area. For example, an activity that occurs in late-spring or early-summer may cause stress to calving or fawning ungulate species. The Department of Game and Fish can provide input to Tourism as activities are planned.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Wild horse tourism might not be promoted by the Tourism Department. However, this does not interfere with the possibility of wild horse tourism being promoted by local governments or private enterprises.

BE/yr