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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Vigil ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/07
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 707
SHORT TITLE San Miguel Del Vado Agricultural Education SB _____
ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$25.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 707 appropriates \$25.0 in General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for a pilot agricultural education program for youth in the valley of San Miguel del Vado.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$25.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DFA notes that the appropriation will fund a pilot project that allows for intergenerational interaction with elders from the Valley of San Miguel del Vado in San Miguel County. The elders will teach children basic agricultural techniques. Many areas of rural New Mexico are faced with the problem of youth moving away from the farming and ranching areas to seek employment in larger communities throughout the State. Subsequently much of the knowledge

of traditional and cultural agricultural methods are being lost. The resources including land and water, however, are still available.

This agricultural education program is similar to successful mentoring programs such as those operating through Department of Labor and Department of Aging and Long-term Care Services. These mentoring intergenerational programs have significantly benefited both the elderly as a means to pass on the knowledge and experience they possess and the youth who require the direction and supervision that is lacking with those families with single parents.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not identify the local government that will be responsible for administration of the project. Since this is a project intended for a rural area of San Miguel County, DFA recommends that the language of the bill include San Miguel County as the administrators of the project.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not address the specific expenditures that are intended for this appropriation which should include costs for agricultural items such as seeds, fertilizers and basic tools.

ALTERNATIVES

DFA suggests directing the funding to existing mentoring programs through Department of Labor or Department of Aging and Long-term Care Services.

WEP/mt