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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gutierrez ORIGINAL DATE 3/01/07
LAST UPDATED _____ HB HJM 54
SHORT TITLE "Pluto Planet Day" SB _____
ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 54 resolves that as Pluto passes overhead through New Mexico's excellent night skies, it will be declared a planet and that March 13, 2007 will be declared "Pluto Planet Day" at the legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NFI

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The state of New Mexico is a global center for astronomy, astrophysics and planetary science.

New Mexico is home to world class astronomical observing facilities, such as the Apache Point observatory, the very large array, the Magdalena Ridge observatory and the national solar observatory.

Apache Point observatory, operated by New Mexico state university, houses the astrophysical research consortium's three-and-one-half meter telescope, as well as the unique 2.5 meter diameter Sloan digital sky survey telescope.

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New Mexico state university has the state's only independent, doctorate-granting astronomy department.

New Mexico state university and Dona Ana county were the longtime home of Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of Pluto.

Pluto has been recognized as a planet for 75 years.

Pluto's average orbit is 3,695,950,000 miles from the sun and its diameter is approximately 1,421 miles from the sun.

Pluto has three moons known as Charon, Nix and Hydra.

A spacecraft called new horizons was launched in January 2006 to explore Pluto in the year 2015.

DW/mt