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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/12/2007

SPONSOR Lundstrom LAST UPDATED _____ HM 99

SHORT TITLE Wild Horse Preservation Commission SB _____

ANALYST Schuss

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 99 requests that the Governor establish a commission for the preservation of wild horses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Memorial 99 does not contain an appropriation, but there is an implied cost to the general fund to establish the Wild Horse Preservation Commission, and for the Commission to carry out its prescribed activities and initial study proposed by HM 99.

HM 99 also requests that the Wild Horse Preservation Commission manage the Heil Trust Fund for Wild Horses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Memorial 99 states that there are wild horses currently living on public lands in New Mexico. A wild horse preserve could prompt local economic development by drawing tourists into a region to see nondomesticated horses in a natural state and a wild horse preserve could link historic and cultural tourism to attract visitors. A wild horse preserve could serve as a valuable resource for educational and youth-oriented organizations.

HM 99 notes that in other areas of the country there exists successful wild horse preserves with herds ranging in size from one hundred sixty to six hundred fifty horses with preserves from

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three hundred twenty to nine thousand acres in size. There is currently no facility for caring for feral and abandoned horses in McKinley county and a horse rescue facility in McKinley county would reduce the property damage and public nuisance caused by wild horses in McKinley county and could prepare wild horses for adoption.

The House of Representatives of the State of New Mexico requests that the Governor establish a commission for the preservation of wild horses and that the commission for the preservation of wild horses have as its primary purpose the preservation of viable herds of wild horses on public lands.

HM 99 states that the activities of the commission for the preservation of wild horses include promoting the management and protection of wild horses, acting as a liaison between the state, the public and parties interested in the preservation of wild horses, advising the Governor on issues affecting wild horses, developing and coordinating projects to study wild horses and their habitat, making information about wild horses available to the news media and the general public, managing the Heil Trust Fund for Wild Horses and reporting to the legislature on the commission's activities.

HM 99 further requests the commission to conduct a study regarding the establishment of horse rescue facilities and report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate Interim Legislative Committees.

BS/mt