Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	Cisneros	ORIGINAL DATE LAST UPDATED		·
SHORT TITLE Indigenous Agricu		ltural Practices	SE	SJM 38/aHLC/aHFl#1
			ANALYST	McOlash/Baca

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropr	iation	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HFl Amendment #1

House Floor Amendment #1 strikes all references to corporations, their genetic engineering activities and the related but unknown effects of these efforts; and adds that the memorial be transmitted to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University.

Synopsis of HLC Amendment

The House Labor and Human Resources Committee makes a technical correction and addresses SJM 38 collaborative activities to New Mexico State University College of Agriculture instead of New Mexico Department of agriculture.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 38 recognizes the significance of Indigenous agricultural practice and native seeds to New Mexico's cultural heritage and food security.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NFI

Senate Joint Memorial 38/aHLC/aHFl #1- Page 2

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The language in SJM 38 expresses support for a number of issues related to "seed sovereignty" in the context of New Mexico's unique cultural and historical heritage. Seed sovereignty pertains to the movement to preserve traditional approaches to agriculture, free from the genetic engineering of seeds and the influence of large business interests which diverge from and threaten such practices. The Joint Memorial enumerates several resolutions:

- 1. That the Legislature recognize the significance of native seeds and their relationship to addressing hunger
- 2. That the Legislature support certain efforts of the organization known as The New Mexico Food and Seed Sovereignty Alliance ("the Alliance")
- 3. That the Department of Agriculture collaborate with the Alliance to further a number of objectives characteristic of the seed sovereignty
- 4. That the Memorial is to be transmitted to the Governor, Director of the Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Indian Affairs

As indicated in SJM 38, New Mexico faces one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the United States. Efforts to address this problem through sustainable agricultural practices, especially within communities that have access to crop land and traditional agricultural knowhow, may help address this serious problem. Data and empirical evidence have converged to reveal that the altering of traditional diets in New Mexico has not only resulted in food insecurity, but also in a myriad of other health maladies.

In the case of Indians, the consequences of changing dietary practices have been especially severe. According to the USDA, only 10% of Native Americans consume a "good" diet. This proportion is not significantly different from that of the population at-large. The "good diet" classification is based upon the rates of consumption of various dietary components, such as fat, fruits and vegetables, milk and whole grains.¹

Despite having diets that are similarly poor as the population at-large, Native Americans suffer disproportionately from certain diet-related health maladies. Obesity and diabetes stand front and center. According to the Department of Health's 2005 American Indian Health Status Report, Native Americans in New Mexico die from diabetes at a rate that is more than twice that of the general population (75.7 as opposed to 31.7 per 100,000 for the years 2000-2002.) The same report found that 33% of Indians in New Mexico were obese, while 20% of the population as a whole was thusly classified.²

Given the severity of this problem, efforts to investigate alternative approaches to food production may have value – both in improving diet and making communities more sustainable, thereby addressing issues of food insecurity simultaneously.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Senate Joint Memorial 38 addresses issues related to genetic engineering of seeds, animals, and wild plants, the corporate patenting of genetic material, and the impact of such manipulations on

From the USDA: http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/Publications/NutritionInsights/insight12.pdf

² From NM DOH: <u>http://www.health.state.nm.us/pdf/health_status_report_final.pdf</u>

Senate Joint Memorial 38/aHLC/aHFl #1- Page 3

the environment and human health. In particular, genetically engineered crops, such as maize in Oaxaca, Mexico and canola in Canada have escaped into the environment and contaminated native seeds and wild plants.

BM/mt:csd