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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/22/2007

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Need for Agricultural Districts SB SJM 54

ANALYST McOlash

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

Senate Joint Memorial 54 requests the New Mexico Legislative Council to appoint a committee to study the need for agricultural districts and requests the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to assist in the study.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Joint Memorial 54 recognizes that farming and ranching are the lifeblood of New Mexico and vital to the economy of the state with centuries upon centuries of Native American, Hispanic and Anglo families making their living and their lives from the land. With agriculture so vital to New Mexico's economy, environment and culture, it is important to conserve, protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land and resources.

The Joint Memorial requests the Legislative Council to appoint an interim committee to study the need to protect agricultural resources through the creation of agricultural districts, the use of conservation easements and the limiting of eminent domain powers.

The memorial requests the NMDA to assist the interim committee and the committee to report its findings and recommendations to the 2008 Legislature.

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Copies of the memorial are to be transmitted to the Legislative Council co-chairs.

BM/nt