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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-18-2008

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 209

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Children's Museum Programs SB _____

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 209 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund for expenditure in FY09 to Cultural Affairs department for outreach programs at a science center and children's museum in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in House Bill 209 is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The House Bill 209 appropriation will provide support to contract with the Explora Science Center & Children's Museum, located on Mountain Road near Old Town in Albuquerque. The center provides educational outreach and the program impact affects many communities throughout the state.

The funding would support outreach activities to rural communities statewide, focusing on young children and educators. Specifically, Explora has outlined five areas of outreach programming that will be assisted through this appropriation:

1. A school-based outreach program, which provides benchmarks and standards-based presentations to classrooms throughout the state.
2. A program that brings school-groups from rural areas to Explora to visit its exhibit facility and participate in standards-based lessons in its classrooms.
3. Overnight "camp-ins," which allow groups from distant communities to utilize the Explora facility and participate in overnight programs.
4. A new program providing instruction to preschool-aged children and training their caregivers in approaches to science-based activities.
5. Professional development programs for New Mexico educators.

Over the course of the initial first year, approximately 7,000 individuals would directly participate. Because a portion of the funds will be used for the training of educators and caregivers, the number of individuals indirectly impacted by these funds will continue to grow each year.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Cultural Affairs department would assume financial oversight as the contracting agency.

RELATIONSHIP

The appropriation in House Bill 209 relates to appropriation in the General Appropriations Act. Regular contract funding in the amount of \$100 thousand has been recommended through the department's program support division operating budget for FY09. The funding in House Bill 209 is in addition to the support provided through the department's operating budget and could significantly expand the service capacity of the state's relationship with this children's museum. The House Appropriation and Finance Committee recommendation for the department of Cultural Affairs also includes a recurring expansion of \$45 thousand that was initially included in the 2007 session's Senate Bill 611 *(LFC recommendation scored this recurring based on the nature of the children's museum and science center's statewide programming element.).

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The funding will provide access to a variety of programs for young people and educators in rural areas. If HB 209 is not enacted, audiences will have fewer opportunities to become engaged in hands-on science education.