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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/08

SPONSOR Trujillo LAST UPDATED _____ HB 441

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe Airport Firefighting SB _____

ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$1,050.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 441, Making an Appropriation for Personnel, Firefighting and Technological Expenses at the Santa Fe Airport, appropriates \$1,050.0 million from the general fund to DFA for the purpose of personnel, firefighting and technological expenses at Santa Fe Airport.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1050.0 million contained in this bill 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

DFA notes that HB 441 funds personnel and equipment to meet standards required for commercial airlines of over 9 seats, such as American and Delta, to provide interstate air service to the Santa Fe airport. Radar is a critical safety enhancement that affects new commercial service as well as exiting traffic at the airport.

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The total appropriation of \$1,050.0 is split between:

- \$250.0 thousand for personnel salaries, heat resistant suites, and "jaws of life", which are required by the Federal Aviation Administration to allow commercial air traffic to continue service to Santa Fe. Future service by American and Delta are dependent on these items being funded.

- \$800.0 thousand for radar equipment considered essential to a commercial airport.

These funds will serve as seed money for federal matching funds of \$2,000.0 million and NM Department of Transportation Aviation Division state grant funds of \$1,200.0 million. This bill will enhance the economic development of not only the Santa Fe area, but all of northern New Mexico. Air travelers will no longer have to travel to Albuquerque for departing flights. This will save travelers a minimum of 2 hours driving time added to each flight.

WEP/mt