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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	<u>Papen</u>	ORIGINAL DATE	<u>1/17/08</u>	HB	<u></u>
		LAST UPDATED	<u></u>		
SHORT TITLE	<u>"Colonias Day"</u>	SJM	<u>7</u>		
		ANALYST	<u>COX</u>		

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED) prior fiscal year – see 2007 SJM 0039

### SUMMMARY

#### Synopsis Of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 7 recognizes February 4, 2008 as "Colonias Day" and requests the Governor and his cabinet to assist local efforts to improve the quality of life in New Mexico by adding rural communities and Colonias to the state's priority action list of programs and water projects for legislative funding.

Senate Joint Memorial 7 states that the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties comprises the elected officials who are responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the residents of New Mexico's thirty three counties, and these board members are asked to represent and address the needs of these residents.

SJM 7 reports that rural and Colonias communities are sorely lacking in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and sanitation services. By working together the state and individual communities could lift these communities up and provide better futures for the children in the communities who will in turn raise their own families on family properties. Residents of rural and Colonias communities face harsh challenges on a daily basis and are reluctant to ask for help.

Initiating a statewide improvement program for rural and Colonias communities where the state partners with the counties to empower these small communities could dramatically improve the quality of life in them.

The Legislature of the State of New Mexico requests that February 4, 2008 be recognized as "Colonias Day" in the Legislature. SJM 7 also requests that Governor Richardson and his cabinet work with the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties to assist local efforts to improve the quality of life in the state and to add improvements for rural communities and Colonias to the state's priority action list of programs for legislative funding. PED notes that many of New Mexico's rural communities need to implement innovative and sustained economic development, retain a highly trained work force and have better access to state agencies. This

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initiative would serve as a catalyst for holistic community revitalization in rural schools and their efforts to establish private-public partnerships.

PRC/mt