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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/10/09

SPONSOR Rodella LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 302

SHORT TITLE Espanola Animal Shelter SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Aubel

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$48.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB125

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 302 appropriates \$48 thousand from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for the purpose of funding animal shelter services, including a spay and neuter program, an animal transfer program, and operation expenses for an animal shelter in Espanola in Rio Arriba County.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$48 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY10 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the Board of Veterinary Medicine, the explosion in the pet population of New Mexico has put a strain on the local government's animal control and sheltering services. A spay/neuter program is a mechanism to reduce the unwanted pet population. According to BVM, providing these services would reduce the load on local government and may improve the risk of public health issues surrounding an over population of pets.

DFA maintains that the language contained in HB 302 does not indicate whether the animal shelter is run by the city or is privately owned and providing contractual services to the city. Furthermore, the bill does it define what "other operational expenses" are. The agency concludes that any anti-donation issues will have to be addressed by the grant agreement administering this appropriation.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

BVM notes that by using the word "an" rather than "the" in defining shelter services, the bill implies creating a shelter. Both responding agencies suggest clarifying the language would be appropriate.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 302 relates to HB 125, which requests funding for the spay/neuter program at the Socorro animal shelter.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

An animal shelter in Espanola will not be able to provide spay/neuter services that would otherwise be funded unless alternative source of revenues is found. Unwanted animal population may increase.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What shelter is the bill referring to—is it owned by the city or county?
2. What t is the average population of the shelter?
3. Has the shelter had prior spay/neuter programs?
4. If so, how successful has the program been?

MA/svb