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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/25/10

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 9

SHORT TITLE Border Security Liaison SB _____

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 9 requests DPS, Department of Transportation (DOT), Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) and the Border Authority of the Economic Development Department (EDD) to designate a border security liaison to work with the federal government and counties sharing a border with Mexico and form part of the border security rapid response team.

HJM 9 also requests that DPS, DOT, HSEMD and the Border Authority of EDD provide an international border security perspective at all strategic planning reviews.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The agencies affected by this memorial can handle the provisions of this memorial with existing staff as part of ongoing responsibilities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico shares a one-hundred-eighty mile border with Mexico. Much of this area is in rural and remote sections of Hidalgo, Luna and Doña Ana Counties. Interstate 10 traverses these

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counties from east-to-west as part of the nation's strategic and economically important interstate highway system. A state of emergency was recently declared for border counties in the four U.S. states due to serious security problems related drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs) and other criminal elements in Mexico, and especially in northern Chihuahua State, including Juarez and Palomas, that has claimed more than fifteen thousand lives since 2006.

DOH notes coordination among county governments and state and federal agencies can effectively improve response times to incidents at the international border in order to prevent violence and prevent parts of the border becoming safe havens for criminals. The formation of a border security rapid response team is proposed as a viable mechanism to reduce violence and assist in the systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of new strategies for international border security.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

A DPS captain is currently assigned to be a liaison to the HSEMD. The Captain works with the New Mexico All Source Intelligence Center (NMASIC) of Homeland Security to monitor information and activity along New Mexico's border with Mexico.

The United States Border Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigations, DPS, HSEMD, along with Luna, Hidalgo and Dona Ana counties are currently involved in Operation Stone Garden. These agencies provide joint coordination and security along the New Mexico-Mexico border as well as officers to respond as needed.

The Office of Border Health of DOH already participates in weekly calls and alerts with (NMASIC) in order to monitor border health-related activities, including meetings, conferences and site visits in the US-Mexico Border Region.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH notes many residents of the border region in both the U.S. and Mexico, including migrants and immigrants from Mexico, are disproportionately affected by the wave of violence and are subjected to a greater potential human health risk and injury from possible violence. Many U.S. citizens and visa holders residing traditionally in Mexican border communities have moved to the U.S. side to avoid the violence.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Why isn't DOH included in this memorial?

DW/mew