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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/15/11

SPONSOR Martinez, K. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 286

SHORT TITLE San Juan/McKinley Counties EMS Appropriation SB _____

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	\$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 286 appropriates \$600 thousand from the general fund to Indian Affairs Department to contract with Navajo Nation for emergency management services in San Juan and McKinley counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$600 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2012 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Recurring funding is included in the operating budget of the Indian Affairs Department for this and other programs in Native American communities. About \$300 thousand was awarded to the Navajo Nation for EMS services in FY10, and a similar amount was made available in FY11. This bill would provide an additional \$600 thousand for this purpose.

According to the Indian Affairs Department, the State of New Mexico has provided funding to the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management (Department) since 1996, with other contributions from the Navajo Nation. New Mexico has entered into Joint Powers Agreements, through IAD, with the Navajo Nation to fund the Department's offices in Crownpoint and Shiprock, New Mexico. These two offices serve fifty-three Navajo Chapters located on the New Mexico portion of the Navajo reservation. In addition, the Department oversees portions of Navajo lands adjacent to the counties of Cibola, Sandoval, Rio Arriba, Bernalillo, and Socorro.

The Department of Health reports that EMS agencies affiliated with and serving the areas in and around the Navajo Nation in New Mexico are eligible for EMS Fund Act monies. Eleven of these agencies received \$93,148 in FY11. Navajo Nation Fire and EMS agencies may also apply for money from the Special Project portion of the EMS Fund. The Special Project portion of the Fund Act makes funding available for the purchase of ambulances and other EMS related projects.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Recurring funding for this purpose is included in the Indian Affairs Department budget.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to IAD:

The Navajo Nation is one of the largest tribes in the US with approximately 180,000 members.¹ Its reservation lands encompass nearly 27,000 square miles.² The New Mexico portion of the Navajo Nation has a population of 69,524, according to the 2000 Census.³ The Department “plans, coordinates, responds, supports, educates, monitors and evaluates” the emergency needs of New Mexico Navajo citizens in order to save lives and property.⁴

The Department provides emergency assistance to the elderly, high risk individuals, indigent families living remote areas without transportation, and low/no income individuals.⁵ These services include the provision of necessities like fuel, firewood, coal, home weatherization, hay and grain. Victims who have lost their homes to fire receive assistance in the form of food, clothing, shelter, utility and comfort kits consisting of blankets/sheets, towels, hygiene products and kitchen utensils.

Additionally, the Department provides public education to mitigate or eliminate the risks associated with potential hazards to the Navajo Nation. Due to its location, geological features and critical facilities, the Navajo Nation is vulnerable to the damaging effects of

¹ 2000 US Census, “Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM—UT: Total Population”, 2000, Retrieved 1/24/08, www.census.gov.

² The Navajo Nation, History, Official Webpage, Retrieved 1/24/08, <http://www.navajo.org/history.htm>.

³ 2000 US Census Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000
Geographic area: Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT (NM part).
http://ww1.edd.state.nm.us/images/uploads/native_american/navajo.pdf

⁴ The Navajo Nation, “Navajo Nation Emergency Management Scope of Work, FY 2007,” Indian Affairs Department, Oct. 11, 2006, 1.

⁵ Ibid.

natural, technological, and national security hazards.⁶ Hazards can range in scope and intensity, “from small local emergencies with minimal damage to multi-county disasters with extensive devastation and loss of life.”⁷ An analysis based on a 2003 Homeland Security (HLM) Hazard Assessment identified major hazards which threaten local and regional Navajo communities including:

- Natural Hazards: wildfires, drought, floods, flash floods, severe winter storms, tornados, lightning, hailstorms, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, volcanic activity, disease outbreak, crop and livestock infestation
- Technological or Human Caused Hazards: hazardous material accidents or release, power failure, urban fire, transport incident (air/rail), radiological and dam failure
- National Security Hazards: civil disorder, international and domestic terrorism, chemical/biological, conflict, and attack.⁸

The Navajo Nation believes the potential for such hazards requires the existence of a comprehensive mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery program like that provided by the Department.⁹

In 2004, the Department developed an Emergency Management Plan to address the duties, responsibilities, tasks, and relationships between the Navajo Nation and Federal, State, Counties, and local chapter governments in order to respond to emergencies and disasters. The Department also established a localized emergency management system called the Authorized Local Emergency Management Repose Team (“ALERT”) to respond to local emergencies quickly and effectively.¹⁰

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The budget of the Indian Affairs Department includes recurring funding for Navajo Nation emergency management services. This bill will either increase funding for EMS services or replace that funding.

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⁶ The Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management. “Navajo Nation Emergency Basic Plan: Draft.” October. 2004, 4.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ The Navajo Nation, “Navajo Nation Emergency Management Scope of Work, FY 2007.” Indian Affairs Department, Oct. 11, 2006, 2.