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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/11/11

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 354

SHORT TITLE Plant or Transmission Line Location Control SB _____

ANALYST Lucero

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		(Minimal Savings) (\$0 - \$100.0)	(Minimal Savings) (\$0 - \$100.0)	(Minimal Savings) (\$0 - \$300.0)	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Regulation Commission (PRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 354 proposes to amend Section 62-9-3 NMSA of the Public Utility Act to clarify that the PRC does not have to approve additions or modifications of an existing electrical plant or transmission line that is not a permanent relocation or expansion beyond one-half mile of their current location. The bill eliminates the provision that PRC jurisdiction only applies to transmission lines that are connected to a new generation plants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PRC reports that the bill could eliminate the need for unnecessary Commission proceedings and possibly save a minimal amount of money.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the PRC, the bill resolves parts of the Statute that are confusing or obsolete. In the past, routine utility system upgrades or temporary relocations required a formal Commission approval.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Utilities would continue to have to apply for approval any time that they make changes to the transmission system.

DL/bym