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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cook and Adair ORIGINAL DATE 03/07/11  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJM 44  
SHORT TITLE Ft. Stanton Cemetery Veteran Burials SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Kleats

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		NFI		NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 44 (HJM 44) requests the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) conduct a study to determine appropriate procedures to accommodate the burial of all veterans and eligible family members at the Fort Stanton cemetery.

HJM 44 requests the DCA study explore the potential for federally assisted expansion of the Fort Stanton cemetery to accommodate burial of populations other than merchant marines, family members of merchant marines and individuals associated with the Fort Stanton hospital prior to its closure in 1954.

HJM 44 requests DCA consult with the Veterans' Services Department to identify and consider the special needs and desires regarding burial of veterans in New Mexico.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HJM 44 carries neither appropriations nor changes in revenue and results in no fiscal impact.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

On November 10, 2010, the board of regents of the University of New Mexico voted to close the Fort Stanton cemetery to future burials of all but deceased merchant marines, spouses of merchant marines or individuals associated with the Fort Stanton hospital prior to its closure in 1954.

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The decision closes the Fort Stanton cemetery to dependents and veterans who have a spouse already interred in the cemetery and who have a burial plot reserved for future use by the living spouse or veteran. Future interment in the cemetery for honorably discharged veterans and their eligible family members.

Out of respect for those veterans already buried at the Fort Stanton cemetery and in consideration of the growing shortage of burial sites for veterans in the state and nation, volunteers who maintain the cemetery have coordinated the burial of veterans and eligible family members with several state agencies for the past several years, with very little cost to the state.

Since the federal government deeded the property to the state in 1953, the Fort Stanton cemetery has been under the authority of a number of state agencies, including the corrections department and the veterans' services department. The cemetery is currently the responsibility of the state monuments division of the cultural affairs department.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This analysis assumes DCA can complete the requested study with existing resources.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Requests for departmental studies are often accompanied with a request for a presentation to inform the legislature of the studies' results. Consider requesting the DCA present the findings of the study to a relevant legislative interim committee.

IK/svb