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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/04/11

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Federal Government Land Grant Negotiations SJM 27

ANALYST Baca

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	None		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 27 resolves that the Legislature of the State of New Mexico request that the federal government begin negotiations with New Mexico and land grant heirs or their representatives for return of land grants to displaced heirs. The memorial further resolves that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, New Mexico's congressional delegation and to land grant heirs or their representatives.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial has no fiscal implications beyond the preparation and mailing of the request.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Since New Mexico's territorial days, land grants have been a matter of dispute as land grant heirs strove to establish their legal rights to the various land grants. The most recent efforts along these lines occurred in 2009 and involved the New Mexico Legislature transmitting a letter to the President of the United States expressing support for return of the land grants to displaced heirs. Subsequent to sending the letter, a June 14, 2010 meeting between the Bureau of Land Management and land grant heirs was part of an initiative to regain legal title to land grant property. This memorial is of the efforts to restore land grants to the rightful heirs.