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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Jeff ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/12  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 313  
SHORT TITLE Native American Veterans' Division SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Chabot

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

	FY12	FY13	FY14	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$110.0	\$110.0	\$220.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 313 amends Section 9-22-4 NMSA 1978 to add the Native American veterans division to the Department of Veterans Services that will provide outreach to Native American veterans and organizations, act as a liaison to the state and federal governments, and assist in organizing and advocating for benefits and services unique to Native American veterans.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation in the bill. However, VSD estimates it needs two additional staff and funding to add the new division. This cost is estimated \$110.0 thousand. According to the LFC staff General Fund Recurring Appropriation Outlook for FY14 and FY15, December 2011 forecasted revenues will be insufficient to cover growing recurring appropriations.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

VSD reports there are approximately 15,000 Native American veterans in the state.

VSD currently has a Native American Veteran Service Officer training program that trains tribal veteran service officers on state and federal benefits. The department also hosts periodic town halls where Native American veterans and families can learn about and apply for benefits.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

It is suggested that to clean up the statute, page 1, line 22 should be deleted and the following subparagraphs lettered appropriately. The state approving division was transferred to the Higher Education Department.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What is the estimate of Native American Veterans not being served by the existing veterans' service officers or tribal representatives?
2. What are the benefits of creating this new division over the existing structure?

GAC/svb