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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/27/12
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Navajo Code Talkers Museum **SB** 160

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$175.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Economic Development Department (EDD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 160 appropriates \$175.0 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of conducting a feasibility and market study regarding visitors and traffic at a national Navajo code talker's museum and veterans' center located in McKinley County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$175.0 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The National Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center located in Tuba City, Arizona, envisions the creation of a unique experience reflective of the history and significance of the Navajo Code Talker legacy and significant role in the outcome of World War II.

The museum is dedicated to the overarching purpose of providing historical clarity, accuracy and context in preserving the extraordinary contribution of the Navajo Code Talkers for future

generations. Their story will be told in compelling detail through an immersive learning environment, powerful interactive exhibits and activities, living demonstrations of the Navajo code and culture in the larger perspective of modern history. The museum and integrated education programs will serve as the national repository for the once-secret military voice code and the legendary skill, endurance, courage and ingenuity of the Navajo Code Talkers.

This bill would have the Department of Indian Affairs do a feasibility study on creation of a similar museum in McKinley County to honor the New Mexican veterans who served as Code Talkers.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The heritage of New Mexico Code Talkers may be lost.

GAC/svb