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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 02/11/16
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Negotiate for Return of Land Grants SM 75

ANALYST Daly

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 75 requests the federal government begin negotiations with New Mexico and land grant boards of trustees and commissioners and the land grant council for the return of land grants to displaced and disenfranchised heirs.

It directs that copies of the memorial be transmitted to President Barack Obama and the New Mexico congressional delegation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact on the State is anticipated by LFC staff.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial states that the history of implementation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by the federal government has resulted in some land grant heirs being displaced or forced off their land, while other heirs have been disenfranchised. These heirs still reside on their land grant but have been denied the benefits of title.

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SM 75 sets out previous actions that have taken place regarding this issue:

- In 2008, the AGO reviewed and responded to inequities in the legal conclusions and reasoning of the federal general accounting office in its 2004 report on land grants;
- In June 2009, current claims for land grant lands were made to President Obama in a letter that expressed support for return of land grants to displaced heirs; and
- On June 15, 2010, a meeting between the United States Bureau of Land Management and land grant heirs was part of an initiative for heirs to regain legal title to land grant property.

MD/jle