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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Baca ORIGINAL DATE 2/21/2017
 LAST UPDATED 2/28/2017 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Unmanned Aircraft Regulation SB 348/aSPAC

ANALYST Rogers

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) amendment to Senate Bill 348 adds a new paragraph to Section 1 of the bill to exclude as an unlawful drone operator an owner or operator of a critical infrastructure facility who operates a drone for monitoring, operating or maintaining the facility, or to determine if repairs to the facility are needed.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 348 establishes penalties for the unlawful operation of unmanned aircraft. The bill makes it unlawful to operate, direct, or fly a drone within 500 feet of critical infrastructure or to interfere with first responders (police, firefighters, paramedics, or search and rescue personnel). Persons in violation of the act for the first time will be guilty of a petty misdemeanor (pursuant to Subsection B of 31-19-1 NMSA 1978) while those guilty of second or subsequent convictions are guilty of a misdemeanor (pursuant to Subsection A of 31-19-1 NMSA).

The bill defines “critical infrastructure” as airports, petroleum refineries and storage facilities, chemical storage and manufacturing facilities, power plants and generation facilities, facilities related to law enforcement, military, and railyard operations, and drinking water storage and treatment facilities, and government and public safety buildings. The bill defines a drone as an unmanned, powered, aerial vehicle. The bill does not include drones operated for law enforcement purposes or where written permission has been granted.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill may generate minimal administrative costs for statewide update, distribution, and documentation of constitutional changes within the Administrative Office of the Courts. Any additional fiscal impact on the judiciary would be proportional to passage of this amendment and any resultant state court proceedings. Such proceedings have the potential to increase caseloads in the courts, thus requiring additional resources to handle the increase.

TR/jle