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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/18

SPONSOR Woods LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Wild Horse & Burro Management SJM 5

ANALYST Daly

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 5 requests that the United States Department of Interior be requested to follow the federal Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and utilize all of the management tools provided in that act, including unrestricted sales and euthanasia, to achieve ecologically sustainable wild horse and burro populations. Additionally, this memorial encourages congress to restore funding to that department to facilitate those activities. Copies of the memorial are to be sent to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the state’s congressional delegation, and to the president of the United States.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

LFC staff anticipates no fiscal impact on the State.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial asserts that:

- Today there are nearly 50 thousand more horses on the range than the land is able to support, in addition to 12 to 15 thousand foals;
- Horses tend to double their population every four to five years;
- Excessive numbers of horses and burros on the range degrade ecosystems and threaten

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public land resources;

- Demand does not meet supply for adoption to be a sufficient management tool;
- Although Congress has authorized the removal of excess animals from the range through adoption, human euthanasia and sale, it is the policy of the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management to not euthanize wild horses or burros or to sell the animals without restriction; and
- To restore the population of free-roaming wild horses and burros to an appropriate level, the national wild horse and burro advisory board recommends allowing the unrestricted sale and humane euthanasia of excess animals as authorized by federal law.

MD/al