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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 248

SHORT TITLE: Indian Affairs Commission

SPONSOR: Pinto

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/9/2026 **ANALYST:** Francis

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$4,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Indian Affairs Department

Because of the short timeframe between the introduction of this bill and its first hearing, LFC has yet to receive analysis from any agency. This analysis could be updated if that analysis is received.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 248

Senate Bill 248 (SB248) appropriates \$4 million from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) for the purpose of establishing a commission to facilitate communication and consultation between New Mexico Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos and the federal government. Any unexpended funds at the end of FY27 will revert to the general fund.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$4 million thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund. The bill does not provide any detail on the activities, composition, or authority of the commission and it is possible costs could become recurring in the future. In addition, the amount appropriated in this bill is likely in excess of what is needed to support liaison activities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Establishing a commission to facilitate communication between the nations, pueblos, and tribes and the federal government could assist tribes with preserving and protecting existing federal funding and potentially increasing that funding. Recently, IAD published a resource guide to H.R.1 (the federal budget reconciliation bill or Public Law 119-21) illustrating the act's impacts on nations, pueblos, and tribes in New Mexico, as well as a general guidance to federal resources potentially at risk.¹ According to the website, the impact from H.R.1 and other federal policies on resources range from healthcare coverage and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility to job training, critical cyber and communications infrastructure, veterans' benefits, and transportation projects.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB248 does not define a scope of activities for the commission nor any details about composition or authority. There are also no definitions of allowable expenditures or staffing for this commission.

NF/dw/ct/hg/sgs

¹ [H.R. 1 Resource Implications - NM Indian Affairs Department](#)