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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Boykin DATE TYPED: 03/13/03 HB HJM 70/aHAFC

SHORT TITLE: NM State Veterans' Museum in Las Cruces SB _____

ANALYST: Gonzales

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SJM68

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Steering Committee for NM State Veterans' Museum

Responses Received From
Office of Cultural Affairs
Commission of Higher Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee amendment adds the New Mexico Veterans Service Commission to the entities being requested to collaborate on establishing a New Mexico State Veterans' Museum in Las Cruces.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Memorial 70 requests the Office of Cultural Affairs, the city of Las Cruces and the New Mexico State University to collaborate on a proposal to establish a New Mexico State Veterans' Museum in Las Cruces. This memorial also requests the entities to report their results and recommendation to the Legislative Finance Committee by October 1, 2003.

Significant Issues

This memorial recognizes there are 21 museums scattered throughout New Mexico that include military items and exhibits in their collections that contain artifacts from different wars and campaigns, yet the contributions of New Mexico's veterans are not adequately represented in a single location. Additionally, this memorial indicates Las Cruces is a logical choice for a New Mexico State Veterans' Museum since Las Cruces: (1) is home to a significant population of veterans and which lies in close proximity to Fort Bliss, Biggs army field, White Sands missile range and Holloman air force base, and (2) is home to New Mexico State University which could contribute its resources to the consolidation of military artifacts that are now scattered throughout the State and could assist with the establishment of a New Mexico State Veterans' Museum.

FISCAL and ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained in this bill; however, there would be some cost incurred by the three participating entities in complying with the provisions of this memorial that would have to be absorbed by each entity.

The Office of Cultural Affairs is charged with administering the State's family of museums and historic monuments. Therefore, its expertise and consultation could assist with early planning and development for such a museum, no matter what entity eventually manages and operates it.

The possible development of this new museum as a State-run facility within the Office of Cultural Affairs raises numerous questions, such as financial sustainability, staffing, existence of an adequate collection, successful marketing/audience share, etc. Presently, museums throughout the state are struggling with attendance issues. That is certainly the case with OCA, State-run museums. The Office of Cultural Affairs exists as a family of eight museums and six historic monuments, all funded and operated by the State of New Mexico. Adequate funding for operations, staffing, marketing, and maintenance is a major challenge for these existing institutions.

DUPLICATION

This memorial is a duplicate of Senate Joint Memorial 68.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The steering committee for the proposed New Mexico State Veterans' Museum indicates there are sufficient collections that currently exist in private collections, veterans and military installations within New Mexico that could be obtained for the veterans' museum collection. The committee further states they would not be dependant upon the collections in the state's existing museums scattered throughout New Mexico that include military items and exhibits in their collections that contain artifacts from different wars and campaigns. The committee believes that all of these museums can co-exist and thrive independently, based upon their unique missions.

JMG/prr:njw