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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Maes DATE TYPED: 2/12/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Santa Fe National Cemetery Honor Guard SB 417

ANALYST: Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$75.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response Received From
New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission (VSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 417 appropriates \$75.0 from the general fund to VSC for the purpose of contracting for bugler and honor guards for veteran burials at the Santa Fe National Cemetery

Significant Issues

The Department of Veterans Affairs pamphlet Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, 2002 Edition states on page 42 "Upon request, the Department of Defense will provide military funeral honor for the burial of military members and eligible veterans. A basic military honors ceremony consists of the folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of Taps by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording. A funeral honors detail to perform this ceremony consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the service in which the deceased veteran served."

The Department of Defense currently has less than 5,000 buglers that can perform this function and also has difficulty in providing funeral honors details due to operational commitments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Recommend that the following be inserted in line 20 after the word “guard”: “from a recognized veterans’ organization active in the Santa Fe area”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The sponsor should consider introducing a memorial to write a letter to the New Mexico congressional delegation to seek funding for providing services to deceased veterans if the Department of Defense and/or the Department of Veterans Affairs are unable to provide these services.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Should similiar services be provided at the Fort Bayard and Fort Stanton cemeteries?

GAC/yr