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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Madalena DATE TYPED 02-09-05 HB 792

SHORT TITLE Native American Voters Alliance Conference SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$50.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for the Indian Affairs Department in the General Appropriations Act.

Duplicates SB548 (as amended by SIAC Committee Report dated 2-3-05)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Responses Not Received From

New Mexico Secretary of State

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 792 – Making an Appropriation for a Native American Voters Alliance Conference – appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for expenditure in FY06 to conduct a Native American Voters Alliance Conference. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues:

IAD indicates that, as of August 25, 2004, data from the New Mexico Secretary of State reflect that there are some 50,883 registered Native American voters in New Mexico – a very small percentage of the state’s eligible Native Americans. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 1,819,046 Native Americans in New Mexico, and although the numbers of Native American voters may have increased during the last presidential election, there is still a large population of state Native Americans who decline to vote.

IAD notes that, in the past, language barriers and other significant problems have deterred eligible Native Americans from participating in the voting process. Further, that this bill would address the continuing need to provide education and coordination with respect to Native American voter issues, while encouraging tribes and tribal communities to play a vital role in increasing the numbers of New Mexico’s Native American voter population.

IAD concludes that with proper training and coordination – central to which is the Native American Voters Alliance Conference – Native American participation in the election process would be greatly enhanced.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Indian Affairs Department would retain oversight of this project.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for the Indian Affairs Department in the General Appropriations Act.

Duplicates SB548 – as amended in SIAC Committee Report dated 2-3-05 – which also seeks to appropriate \$50,000 from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for expenditure in FY06 to conduct a Native American Voters Alliance Conference.

BFW/njw