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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/2006

SPONSOR Martinez LAST UPDATED HB 543

SHORT TITLE Municipal Court Automation Fund Uses SB

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Department of Finance and Administration? (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 543 amends Section 34-9-12 NMSA 1978 to expand the use of the municipal court automation fund from the purchase and maintenance of the court automation system, to include the operation of the system and the use of temporary personnel costs as needed to comply with Section 35-14-12 NMSA 1978.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The AOC indicates the municipal court automation fund has sufficient revenue to pay for operational costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Municipalities receive reimbursements from the Municipal Court Automation Fund for expenditures related to automation support for their respective municipal courts. In order to be able to report DWI convictions, municipal courts must install, maintain, and operate computer equipment. Without the expansion in the language to operate the computer-based systems, municipal

courts will have difficulty in complying with Section 35-14-12 NMSA 1978 - requiring courts to have the capability of providing timely electronic records for tracking DWI convictions. Court staff is needed to input court records and transmit them electronically to the Administrative Office of the Courts Central Repository.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If the language in the existing statutes is not expanded, municipal courts will not be reimbursed from the Municipal Court Automation Fund for system operating costs, including temporary staff for data entry and electronic reporting.

BMC/nt