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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/06

SPONSOR Harrison LAST UPDATED _____ HB 667

TOHATCHI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SHORT TITLE PROGRAMS SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 374

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

House Bill 667 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department to fund youth development programs, including the youth leadership project, at the Tohatchi chapter of the Navajo Nation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department has a special project with Tohatchi Fighting Back, Inc. for youth development services which includes the areas of Tohatchi, Naschitti, Mexican Springs, Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon. All of these communities are in McKinley County except Naschitti which is just north of the McKinley County boundary in San Juan County. In the past few years,

a growing concern about crime, gang activity, and delinquency in Indian country has emerged. This phenomenon is attributed to many risk and protective factors. For example, a recent study of risk factors for substance abuse found that Native youths were more likely than other youths to perceive moderate to no risk associated with substance use, to perceive their parents as not strongly disapproving of their substance use, and to believe that all or most of the students in their school get drunk at least once a week. Further, Native youths were less likely than other youths to participate in youth activities or regularly attend religious services.

The bill addresses the need for positive activities, prevention and intervention programs, and leadership development for Indian youths so they do not engage in negative activities. A youth development and leadership program may help Indian youths by providing a positive alternative while helping to build competencies such as critical thinking skills, respect for self, families, and tribal communities.

Outcomes directly generated through Tohatchi Fighting Back, Inc. include the development of the Navajo Police Athletic League, Tohatchi Youth and Boys and Girls Club, Tohatchi Little League District, girls and boys community baseball teams; peacemaker court, safe kids program and youth participation in the Tony Dorsett football league.

MW/mt