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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Taylor ORIGINAL DATE 1-26-06
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Historic Inventory of Cemeteries SB 142
ANALYST Segura

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 142 appropriates \$75.0 to the Historic Preservation Division of the DCA to make an inventory of cemeteries in the state for preservation purposes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 142 appropriates \$75.0 from the general fund and is recurring. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to DCA, hundreds of rural and abandoned cemeteries across the state are endangered or destroyed because there is an assumption that all cemeteries are known and cared for. In fact, cemeteries fade from memory and are being rediscovered due to the increasing rate of housing construction or infrastructure upgrades. Currently, there is no inventory that can be consulted by

community planners or the public to avoid impacts to cemeteries that have lost their caretakers or their markers. No database or website exist to make such an inventory useful to genealogists, historians, families, and communities about the layout and location of cemeteries and the historical information conveyed on tombstones and the cultural practices of grave decoration.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Historic Preservation Division is charged, under the Cultural Properties Act, 18-6-1 through 18-6-23, NMSA 1978, with the preservation of cultural properties, the maintenance and expansion of statewide historic and prehistoric site databases, and the protection of unmarked burials in conjunction with permits issued by the Cultural Properties Review Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The DCA indicates that enactment of Senate bill 142 will have administrative and staffing implications and request a percentage of the overall funding for administrative costs.

RS/mt:nt