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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/2006

SPONSOR Rodriguez LAST UPDATED 2/7/06 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Political Access for Deaf persons SB SJM 15/aSRC

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY06 | FY07 | | |
| | None | | |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Commission for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

SUMMARY

Synopsis of the SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment does the following on page 2, lines 20 - 21:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study determine how to provide more ~~interpreters~~ communication access at political events and closed captioning on political television advertisements; and

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 15 requests collaboration between the NM Commission for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and the Secretary of State to conduct a study to establish a mechanism to encourage communication access to ensure full participation in the Democratic Process by all deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens. The memorial requests that the study attempt to determine how to provide more interpreters at political events and closed captioning on television advertising.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the NM Commission for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, there are no fiscal implications

Senate Joint Memorial 15/aSRC - Page 2

to the State. However, the cost of providing sign language interpreters and closed captioning will need to be provided by the political candidates.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Currently deaf and hard of hearing people are not able to attend political rallies or understand political advertising on television. Deaf and hard of hearing voters are left out of the process.

BMC/yr