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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/21/07
 LAST UPDATED 3/15/07 HB _____

SPONSOR Lovejoy

SHORT TITLE Alternative Native American Voting Locations SB 1105/aSRC/aHVEC

ANALYST Leger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HVEC Amendment

The House Voters and Elections Committee amendment strikes all Senate Rules Committee amendments. The amendment requires county clerks to provide an alternate early voting location on Indian Nation, Tribal or Pueblo Lands when requested by the Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo.

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment allows County Clerks to provide alternate voting locations without having to be requested by the Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo. The amendment also allows for a mobile or alternate early voting location.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 1105 amends NMSA Section 1-6-5.6 NMSA requiring County Clerks to provide an alternate voting location on Tribal Lands when requested by the Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the SOS, counties would need to be funded for the alternate voting location on Tribal Lands. Possible expenses are:

- Additional Voting Machines
- Precinct Boards
- Additional Ballots
- Native American Interpreters
- Additional Voting Machine programming and testing costs
- Additional Voting Machine Troubleshooters
- Some Counties would have to set up seven or more alternate sites if all Tribes within that county request an alternate site
- A mobile alternative voting site would have to be purchased and staffed if requested by Indian Nation within that county
- Informational costs

It is estimated a county could pay up to \$30,000 per site. If all possible alternate sites are requested, a county may have to spend more that \$200,000 that is not currently in their budget. The counties cannot fulfill the provisions of this bill without additional funding.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Providing alternative sites on Indians lands may increase voter turnout.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There will be some additional administrative work for the SOS, but it can be handled with existing staff as part of the SOS's ongoing responsibilities.

The county clerks will also have added administrative responsibilities that will tax existing staff.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Does the SOS have any guidelines on sitting voting locations such as population requirements or maximum distances traveled?

JL/csd:nt