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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/22/10

SPONSOR     Martinez, R.     LAST UPDATED                      HJM     10    

SHORT TITLE     Ft. Bayard National Cemetery Funds     SB                     

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ANALYST     Pava    

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
NFI			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Veterans' Services Dept. (DVS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 10 requests the Veterans' Services Dept. to study extending eligibility to Ft. Bayard National Cemetery to receive funding from the Veterans' National Cemetery Fund administered by the State of New Mexico. The findings of the study would be presented to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 2010.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact. The study is to be conducted by the department. The agency reports that funds in the National Cemetery Fund are already obligated in payment for a land transfer, so no funds are available.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DVS states the National Cemetery Fund was established as a state income tax check-off to fund the Santa Fe National Cemetery. The funds currently in this account have been earmarked for the City of Santa Fe as part of a land transfer deal between the City of Santa Fe and the National Cemetery.

## **House Joint Memorial 10 – Page 2**

Fort Bayard National Cemetery is located in southwestern New Mexico adjacent to the Gila national forest. This site was chosen in 1863 for its springs and commanding view of the Apache war trails. Fort Bayard National Cemetery is a symbol of New Mexico's shared history and the bravery of its great leaders such as Apache Chief Geronimo and United States Army General G. D. Bayard. It was established in 1930 and became part of the national cemetery system in 1973, when its administration was transferred from the Department of the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the 1990s, the state of New Mexico donated just under four acres to the cemetery. The cemetery was placed on the national register of historic places on July 7, 2002. The Veterans' National Cemetery Fund was created by the legislature to provide a lasting tribute to all veterans of New Mexico.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

Current statute stipulates that the National Cemetery Fund is to be sent to the City of Santa Fe.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Ft. Bayard Cemetery is currently funded through the National Cemetery Administration as part of the Veterans Administration. Additional funding should be requested through the VA as part of the National Cemetery Administration budget.

CP/mew:svb