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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/10

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Navajo Code Talkers Museum SB 511

ANALYST Earnest

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	\$175.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)  
 Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)  
 Veterans Services Department (VSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 511 appropriates \$175 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) for a feasibility and market study regarding visitors and traffic at a National Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center to be located in McKinley County.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$175 thousand contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2012 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Cultural Affairs Department, the Navajo Code Talkers Foundation, headquartered in Window Rock, AZ, has been developing a National Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center. The Chevron Mining Company transferred 208 acres of land, two miles east of the Arizona-New Mexico border along the Navajo Code Talkers Highway, for the

museum. A recent news article in the *Gallup Independent* stated that the museum project will cost \$42.6 million, and that about \$1 million has been collected so far.

The Indian Affairs Department reports that the National Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center will be a multifaceted building, featuring interactive exhibits and activities, living demonstrations of the Navajo code and culture, and classrooms for educational seminars and programs. The Navajo Code Talker Museum, according to IAD, will be completed in the latter part of 2011 or early 2012. Additionally, a Veterans' Center and on-site lodging for visitors and veterans is intended for this site.

A feasibility and market study regarding visitors and traffic at the National Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center would provide statistical information and data to the Museum and Veterans Center, which would influence future marketing strategies in order to sustain the economic base of this site. The IAD would subcontract with a research entity to conduct and complete the feasibility and market study.

BCE/mew