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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Navajo Code Talkers Museum & Vets Center SB 365

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$1,000.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 365 (SB365) appropriates \$1 million to the Indian Affairs Department to design and construct a Navajo code talkers museum and veterans center in McKinley County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB365 appropriates \$1 million to the Indian Affairs Department to design and construct a Navajo code talkers museum and veterans center in McKinley County for expenditure in FY20. This is a nonrecurring appropriation. Without a designated location in McKinley County, the costs for infrastructure design and construction are unknown; infrastructure development could limit the amount of funds that remain for the museum and veterans center structures.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

During World War II (WWII), 29 Navajo Marines created the unbreakable code used by hundreds of Code Talkers over 26 years. According to the Navajo Nation website (<http://www.navajo-nsn.gov/history.htm>) the United States military trained approximately 400 Navajos code talkers. In 1968, the United States declassified the Navajo code, but the Navajo code talkers were finally honored on September 17, 1992, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

The 2016 Legislature passed Senate Joint Memorial 16 (SJM16), expressing appreciation to the Navajo code talkers for their contributions to the victory of the United States during WWII and requests the United States Congress provide funding to support the planning, design, and construction of the code talkers museum and veterans center. SJM16 stated the Navajo code talkers museum and veterans center will provide a museum with an educational history of the Navajo code talkers, historical stories, and recognition for service.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The appropriation has a reversion date of June 30, 2020. However, design and construction projects generally take longer than this, with capital outlay appropriations for construction projects having four years to expend.

JA/al