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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/3/09

SPONSOR HEC LAST UPDATED _____ HB 674/HECS

SHORT TITLE State Bilingual Poem SB _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Substitute for House Bill 674

House Education Committee Substitute for House Bill 674 declares a poem titled “We Love It Real Hot,” written by Alberto Onaldo Martinez to be the official state bilingual poem subject to the state's acquisition of ownership and copyright of the song.

The bill provides that the poem titled “We Love It Real Hot” shall cease to be the official state bilingual poem when another state bilingual poem is adopted by law. The Cultural Affairs Department may conduct a bilingual poem competition to select a new poem for consideration by the Legislature in 2013 or later, which would be designated as the state bilingual poem.

The bill further provides that the Cultural Affairs Department, the Public Education Department, and the Tourism Department shall use the state bilingual poem to advance bilingual education in the state and further the goals of each department.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Education Committee Substitute for House Bill 674 contains no appropriation. Costs to obtain rights to the poem are unknown and the dollar range of \$0.0 to \$50,000 (from an estimate for a prior proposal declaring an official state cowboy song) **may** represent the amount needed to purchase rights to the poem. Expenses incurred to obtain rights to the poem will be non-recurring and would be expected to come from the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Education Committee Substitute for House Bill 674 adds an open and competitive process to the declaration of a permanent official bilingual poem.

If the poem is adopted as the official New Mexico bilingual poem, it will join some of the other symbols used to represent the state, among which are the following.

- the state seal
- other state songs:
 - “O, FAIR NEW MEXICO” by Elizabeth Garrett
 - “ASI ES NUEVO MEJICO” by Amadeo Lucero
 - “LAND OF ENCHANTMENT,” state ballad, by Michael Martin Murphy and others
 - “NEW MEXICO – MI LINDO NUEVO MEJICO” by Pablo Mares
 - “TO NEW MEXICO” – “A NUEVO MEJICO”, state poem written by Luis Tafoya
- Yucca, the state flower
- Pinon, the state tree
- Blue Grama, the state grass
- Chaparral (roadrunner), the state bird
- Black Bear, the state animal
- Chile and Beans, the state vegetables
- Turquoise, the state gem
- Biscochito, the state cookie
- State slogan: “EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN NEW MEXICO”

There are other state symbols not listed here, but all states adopt elements that are common to the area and which are used to represent the state and the pride citizens have in their social and physical environment

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Even if adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, rights to the song must still be purchased before it can be claimed as the official state poem.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The state will not have an official bilingual poem.