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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/09
 SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED 2/19/09 HB 217/aHEC
 SHORT TITLE NMHU Bilingual Ed Materials SB _____
 ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$260.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Amendment adds bilingual programs in addition to bilingual materials to the proposed uses of the appropriation.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 217 appropriates \$260.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for bilingual education materials.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$260/0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was submitted by NMHU to the HED in the amount of \$200,000 for review. The Department would have a neutral recommendation for this project for FY10, if the State's fiscal picture improves.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

With respect to special projects, higher education institutions advanced 114 proposals for new projects and expansions at a total general fund cost of \$54 million during the HED budget request process in fall 2008.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

NMHU states that The NMHU Bilingual Education Materials Program preserves and promotes the Hispano culture and language of New Mexico statewide, nationally and internationally. This is accomplished by producing bilingual educational materials for schools and other educational institutions as well as for public use. These materials promote the culture by sustaining and augmenting the use of the Spanish language, by promoting literacy in Spanish and English, and providing insight into other aspects of the Hispano culture.

The goal of the program is to produce and distribute the following materials:

- AMIGOS monthly periodical.
- Aspectos Culturales radio program.
- Trainings.
- Digitalization of materials.
- Other publications and presentations.

The PED notes that if enacted, this bill may impact the PED performance standards concerning dropout rates and closing the achievement gap for Hispanic or Latino students. This legislation will address the PED's performance measure focusing on the percent of No Child Left Behind Act annual measurable objectives for Adequate Yearly Progress.