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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Altamirano DATE TYPED: 01/26/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Promotion & Marketing for Farmers' Markets SB 66
 ANALYST: Gilbert

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 45.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 65
 Duplicates HB 141

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Commission for Higher Education (CHE)
 CHE Files - Special Funding Requests Submitted by NMSU

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 66 appropriates \$45.0 to New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to promote local farmers' markets throughout the state, to provide marketing and organizational assistance to new and developing markets, and to disseminate educational information about New Mexico agriculture to consumers.

Significant Issues

Currently, there are 28 Farmers' Markets in New Mexico. This appropriation is intended to benefit Farmers' Markets by allowing them to participate in numerous consumer promotions and to increase consumer awareness of the availability of fresh produce, vegetables, livestock products, greenhouse products, processed foods, and other goods produced in New Mexico.

NMSU provided a categorical priority list of all new and expansion research and public service project requests to the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) for their review. According to the CHE, the NMSU board of Regents ranked this request as their third priority in their partner programs category. The CHE, however, did not recommend expansion funding for this program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$45.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY02 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT

NMSU submitted the following budget for this program including 3.0 FTE to the CHE.

Salaries (3.0 FTE)	\$120,000
Fringe Benefits	\$23,700
Supplies/Equipment	\$30,000
Travel	\$10,000
Other	<u>\$16,300</u>
 TOTAL	 \$200,000

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the CHE, this program does not currently exist. 21-1-24 NMSA 1978, states that any graduate program that is to benefit from state funding must be first approved by the CHE and the State Board of Finance. The process for graduate degree program approval is in 5 NMAC 5.2. This program has not yet been presented for review per the regulatory process.

LG/ar