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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 2/25/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE State Internship Program SB 483

ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$750.0		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Department of Information Technology (DoIT)
 Tourism Department (TD)

No Response Received From

State Personnel Office (SPO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 483 appropriates \$750 thousand from the general fund to the State Personnel Office (SPO) for the purpose of providing internship programs in the Department of Health (DOH), Cultural Affairs Department (DCA), Tourism Department (TD), and the Department of Information Technology (DoIT).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Because SB483 creates a new program, the appropriation of \$750 thousand contained in this bill is considered a recurring expense to general fund as shown in the table above. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

It is unclear from the language of the bill how the funds will be expended; would the State Personnel Office (SPO) distribute funds to agencies on a reimbursement basis or would SPO be responsible for hiring and paying interns on behalf of involved agencies?

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Although SPO did not provide a response, it is reasonable to assume there would be a cost to the agency for creation of an internship program. The exact cost is difficult to determine as the responsibilities of the agencies involved are not defined in the legislation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH and DCA already have paid internship programs. DOH reports:

The Public Health Division (PHD) within the DOH mentored over 150 student interns in 2018 and currently maintains 43 academic agreements with colleges and universities in and outside of New Mexico...It is unknown what impact the internship program has on students, and mentoring student interns can be time consuming. However, internships in a state health agency are a way to expose students to public health and encourage students to consider careers in public service.

DCA notes:

The Department of Cultural Affairs has had a successful partnership with New Mexico Highlands University in placing recent graduates in paid internships throughout the state's cultural institutions. This partnership has proven beneficial to both the host institutions and the students participating. The Department of Cultural Affairs would see immediate benefit from state funding to expand its internship program.

CJ/sb