

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.

Only the most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC's office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Atkin DATE TYPED: 2-1-02 HB 232

SHORT TITLE: Divorce Prevention Booklet SB _____

ANALYST: Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring Or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$100.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
Cooperative Extension Service (CES), New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 232 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) for expenditure in fiscal year 2003 (FY03) to produce and distribute a booklet entitled "Before You Check Out-Check Your Options" that would offer couples in conflict a range of options available to them prior to marriage dissolution. The available options shall include statewide private, public and faith-based programs and counseling services. Additionally, the booklet shall offer guidance regarding communication skills, conflict resolution, financial counseling, substance abuse issues, ending an affair, rebuilding or recommitting to a marriage, domestic violence resources and other topics that could benefit people whose marriages are in crisis.

Significant Issues

The CES analysis cites studies identifying New Mexico as one of the worst places in the nation to raise children. Reasons for this designation include the high rate of children from homes broken up by divorce. Improving communication between adults and between children and parents is considered crucial if the family is to survive as a unit. CES recommends the use of the booklet to help adults develop the skills necessary to maintain the family. Furthermore, states the CES analysis, a

stable family environment can serve as a protective buffer against school failure, school dropouts and involvement with drugs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY2003 shall revert to the general fund.

House Bill 232 relates to House Bill 2, the General Appropriation Act, which contains the appropriation for NMSU.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The following is provided for information only. It is not intended as a commentary on the merits of the bill:

This request was not submitted to the NMSU Board of Regents and was not included in the regent's request to the CHE. Consequently, The CHE did not review nor did it recommend the program.

LB/njw