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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nava DATE TYPED: 1/24/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: NMSU /Grants Degree Completion Program SB 89

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$150.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University
Commission on Higher Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 89 appropriates \$150.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to provide bachelor's degree completion programs in early childhood and elementary education in collaboration with the Grant-Cibola County schools, the pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and the Grants campus of New Mexico State University

Significant Issues

This bill addresses the teacher shortage issue, one that is particularly acute among small school districts that have large minority group students. This bill is also designed to allow prospective

teachers from minority groups to complete certification requirements and thus increase the number of certified teachers available as well the number of teachers from cultural and/or linguistic minority groups.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

This request for \$150.0 was submitted to and approved by the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University. However, the Commission on Higher Education did not recommend the project for expansion.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund. According to the NMSU analysis, this is a one-time request for non-recurring funding because program funding will be continued through the IHE funding formula after the first year. The recurring cost, however, is simply shifted from a specific, one-year allocation to the university's general fund appropriation.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. If teacher training programs are already offered in the Grants area, why is additional funding needed ?
2. Given that this program is considered a high priority by the regents, why weren't funds redirected from other areas so the project could qualify for formula funding in subsequent years ?
3. Are other sources for one-time funding available either within or outside the NMSU budget ?

LRB/njw