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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nunez DATE TYPED: 2/20/03 HB 474/aHEC

SHORT TITLE: Border Region Math and Science Education SB _____

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$400.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

State Department of Education (SDE)
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendments

The amendment adopted by the House Education Committee adds a program evaluation requirement:

“A plan for a program evaluation, including specific program goals and criteria for assessing program effectiveness, shall be submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education by October 1, 2004. An assessment of the program will be completed prior to June 30, 2005, and submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education.”

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 474 appropriates \$400.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for an initiative that partners with kindergarten through twelfth grade students in Southern New Mexico to significantly increase math and science achievement for all

students in rural counties in proximity to the Mexican border.

Significant Issues

New Mexico students consistently score low on math and science tests. According to the NMSU analysis, border area children score lower than the rest of the state, are not meeting learning expectations in science and math and, consequently, many are not successfully completing high school or pursuing a college education.

This bill addresses some of the causes for the under-achievement in these two subjects, such as:

- lack of alignment between taught curriculum and state content standards,
- low performance on math and science tests by all New Mexico students,
- inadequate preparation of seniors entering post-secondary institutions, and
- need for professional training for instructional and administrative staff.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400.0 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU reports it will absorb the additional responsibilities and costs (about \$40.0) associated with implementing the provisions of the bill. The appropriation requested will be used to support costs associated with staffing. Also, NMSU will use matching grant funds from the federal government and private industry to promote the goals of the Border Initiative.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What activities are currently underway to strengthen instruction in science and math in school districts that would participate in the border Initiative?
2. If any, how successful have they been?
3. Even though scores in math and science tests are consistently low, are students making any "progress"?

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