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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Heaton DATE TYPED 2-6-04 HB 81

SHORT TITLE NM Virtual School Expansion SB _____

ANALYST Segura

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$400.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB148
Relates to SB126

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 81 appropriates \$400.0 to PED to expand the New Mexico Virtual School (NMVS) to provide distance-learning opportunities for New Mexico middle grade students.

Significant Issues

According to PED, the NMVS is designed to assist districts in meeting the growing and changing needs of students in the 21st Century and to assist students by providing courses that might not be available in their local schools.

In FY00 the department was appropriated \$500.0, in FY01 an appropriation of \$800.0 was used for the development and implementation of the NMVS. A statewide taskforce recommended a framework that allowed the PED to begin offering on-line learning opportunities beginning in the 2001-02 school year.

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Enrolled students represented the diversity of the New Mexico student population and were distributed across grades 9-12. Twenty-one percent of the students were in 12th grade, 28 percent in 11th grade, 25 percent in 10th grade, and 25 percent in 9th grade.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 81 appropriates \$400.0 from the general fund and is recurring.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The PED can administer the expansion of the NMVS and provide technical assistance to districts implementing virtual courses.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to PED, the availability of certified instructors, the development of alternative learning programs, the number of students in a class, schedules, geographic location, budget and resources limit educational choices. These factors are currently driving a need to continually create innovative, challenging and sound learning experiences available throughout the middle grades in New Mexico.

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