

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Garcia, Mary Helen **DATE TYPED** 02/22/05 **HB** 160/aHEC

SHORT TITLE NMSU College Assistant Migrant Program **SB** _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$160.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Pubic Education Department (PED)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
 New Mexico Department of Labor (DOL)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

House Education Committee amendment to HB160 amends the legislation as follows:

- *On page 1, line 11:* the word “ASSISTANT” is removed, with the word “ASSISTANCE” inserted in lieu thereof.
- *On page 1, line 18:* after the word college, the word “assistant” is removed, with the word “assistance” inserted in lieu thereof.

This amendment adds no additional appropriation to the legislation.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 160 – Making an Appropriation for the College Assistant Migrant Program to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University – appropriates \$160,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to fund the College Assistant Migrant Program to support the educational needs of migrant and seasonal farm workers. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

NMSU indicates that in 2002, the Department of Education awarded NMSU the College Assistance Migrant Program (NMSU-CAMP) grant to serve the educational needs of migrant/seasonal farm workers. The NMSU-CAMP program only serves U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are full-time freshmen students at NMSU. Migrant/seasonal farm work includes any agricultural activity directly related to the production of crops, dairy products, poultry or livestock, and/or the cultivation or harvesting of trees or work in fish farms.

NMSU notes that CAMP students have worked in various types of conventional and organic farms throughout New Mexico including:

- Cebolla and Mora in Northern New Mexico;
- Hagerman, Dexter and Artesia in Eastern New Mexico;
- Animas in Western New Mexico; and
- Hatch, Salem, and Chamberino in Southern New Mexico, among other locations.

Further, NMSU-CAMP students represent a mixture of New Mexicans ranging from first generation to fourth generation New Mexicans working on small family subsistence farms to large-scale dairy and agricultural operations. Other students who have participated in NMSU-CAMP come from Texas, Colorado, and California. The program offers the first line of support to ensure NMSU-CAMP student success in their first year at the university as well as maintaining communication with former CAMP students to guarantee that they receive the support required for graduation.

NMSU further indicates that the goals of CAMP are:

- to address the achievement gap of farm worker students in higher education and bridge educational outreach issues within this population;
- to see each CAMP student graduate from NMSU with a bachelor's degree;
- to provide students with free housing, free meal plans at the university cafeteria, free comprehensive health exams, free art and cultural activities, free tutoring and mentoring, free leadership training workshops, and monthly student stipends to assist with school supplies; and.

- to provide overall educational support and communication with family, community members, and university administrators that serve as the educational support network for each student.

CHE indicates that this request was not in the list of priority projects submitted by NNMSU to CHE for review. Accordingly, it was not included in the commission's funding recommendation for FY06.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$160,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU would retain oversight of the program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for NMSU in the General Appropriations Act.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

As general background information to CAMP, NMSU offers the following observations:

- It enables NMSU to further institutionalize its first and only program assisting migrant/seasonal farm workers that are so critical to our regional and state prosperity.
- Through CAMP, the state of New Mexico and NMSU take a lead in moving toward better collaborations with community members, community initiatives, and in fulfilling the overall goals of the university's land grant mission.
- This farm worker student population is more apt than others to remain in New Mexico and contribute back to their communities. This student population will return to their closely-knit families and communities to further promote our University and continued education with younger siblings and younger generations of community members.
- This farm worker student population will help sustain the small and often rural communities they come from by serving as the future educators, leaders, and policy makers in their home region.

PED adds that, in general, migrant students attend college at lower rates than other groups. The CAMP program provides financial and academic support to migrant students to enable them to attend and succeed in college. Many migrant students do not attend institutions of higher learning due to repeated moves from school district to school district and the lack of coordination between school districts and states. PED further suggests that New Mexico's migrant program

achieves three central objectives:

- it removes the barriers that exist for migrant students that impede graduation;
- it increases the number of migrant students attending college by ensuring a seamless transition into college; and
- it significantly helps students – who are often first generation college students – assimilate to college life and graduate from their chosen institution.

BFW/sb:lg