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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hamilton DATE TYPED 02-22-05 HB 302/aHEC

SHORT TITLE WNMU School of Education SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Woods

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$641.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

Relates to SB346

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE) (SB346)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HEC Amendment

House Education Committee amendment to HB302 amends the legislation as follows:

- *On page 1, line 19:* The word “licensure” is removed, with the phrase “preparation program” inserted in lieu thereof.

This amendment adds no additional appropriation to the legislation.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 302 – Making an Appropriation to Western New Mexico University for the School of Education – appropriates \$641,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New

Mexico University for expenditure in FY06 for the purpose of maintaining the network for web-based teacher licensure at Western New Mexico University. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED indicates the bill would provide Western New Mexico University (WNMU) with the financial support to maintain its statewide online and distance education teacher preparation courses. WNMU offers undergraduate and alternative teacher preparation courses leading to licensure in elementary, secondary, special education and career and technology teacher education. WNMU also offers graduate-level education courses. The existing program provides access and availability to undergraduate and graduate students who are unable to travel to WNMU's main campus in Silver City, or to its Graduate Studies Center in Gallup.

PED additionally notes that the WNMU School of Education is particularly committed to expanding online access to students in rural areas, as well as to the Navajo Nation Teacher Education Consortium, which continues its efforts to increase the number of Navajo teachers in secondary education.

While this program was approved by the NMSU Board of Regents for consideration by CHE, it was not included in the *CHE 2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

PED suggests that the bill serves to support the Public School Support Quality Performance Measure to *increase the percent of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in all schools across the state*. Further, that it also supports the New Mexico Accountability Plan for the federal *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001*, which requires that 100 percent of core academic subjects are instructed by highly qualified teachers by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$641,000 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**

WNMU would retain oversight of the program.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

**House Bill 302/aHEC -- Page 3**

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

Relates to SB346 in that SB346 appropriates \$641,600 – as opposed to \$641,000 in this bill – from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University to maintain the network for web-based teacher licensure.

Further, SB346 authorizes expenditure in FYs 05 and 06, while this bill restricts expenditures to FY06. Both this bill and SB346 state that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

**BFW/njw:lg**