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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez DATE TYPED 02/07/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Northern New Mexico Teacher Program SB 321

ANALYST Williams

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$565.0		potential double-funding in out-years	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Similar to House Bill 328. SB 321 adds the language “for instruction and student services for the teacher education program” to the language of HB 321.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
 New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)  
 Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 321 appropriates \$565 thousand from the general fund to fund instruction and student services for the teacher education program at Northern New Mexico State School, commonly known as Northern New Mexico Community College.

#### Significant Issues

Northern New Mexico Community College received \$175,000 in non-recurring funds in FY06 for teacher education. Further, Chapter 84 (Senate Bill 163) authorized the board of regents to develop, implement and seek accreditation for a baccalaureate degree in teacher education for the Espanola campus.

The program would be authorized when the board certifies the program:

- (1) has been developed and is ready for implementation and
- (2) is ready to receive the accreditation review team....

The 2003 legislation directed that in developing the program, northern New Mexico state school shall engage in a partnership with New Mexico Highlands University.....”

The Commission on Higher Education notes “Activities to be funded in this proposal will be funded through the Instruction and General (I&G) higher education funding formula within the General Appropriation Act in FY06. Funding of a specific program without consideration of similar needs at all institutions could weaken the equitability and thus the integrity of the I&G formula.”

PED notes “there are currently nine undergraduate teacher preparation programs and 10 alternative teacher preparation programs in operation in New Mexico that train approximately 1,500 new teachers each year, although not all become teachers and some are recruited to other states. New Mexico will need approximately 1,850 new teachers each year for the next 10 years. The establishment of a baccalaureate degree program would expand opportunities for teacher education in the region and would be responsive to helping the high-need districts in Northern’s service area to fill hard-to-staff positions in special education, bilingual and reading.”

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

According to PED, “expanding the licensure programs available to prepare teachers could help address the Public Education Department’s (PED) on-going work to increase the pool of potential teachers and thereby increase the percent of classes being taught by “highly qualified” teachers in high-need schools. These efforts could help PED meet the requirements set forth in the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, namely that all teachers teaching in core academic subjects must be “highly qualified” by the end of the 2005-2006.”

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$565 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

Instruction and general components of new degree programs offered by the state’s public post-secondary institutions are typically funded through the higher education funding formula. This bill proposes to potentially bypass the formula resulting in double-funding when student credit hours are generated.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

In 2003, the legislature established the program development enhancement fund, administered by the commission on higher education, to “enhance the contribution of post-secondary educational institution to the resolution of critical state issues and the advancement of the welfare of the state”. This fund was established pursuant to the recommendations of the blue ribbon task force

on the higher education funding formula. Senate Bill 370 (Chapter 389) identified critical issues which might be addressed utilizing funding from the program development enhancement fund:

- Expanding instructional programs to meet critical statewide work force and professional training needs
- Enhancing instructional programs that provide employment opportunity for New Mexico students in a global economy and
- Developing mission-specific instructional programs that build on existing institutional academic strengths.

To date, monies have not been appropriated to the fund. The legislature may wish to consider the program development enhancement fund as a mechanism to plan and prioritize needs such as those as identified in this bill.

The CHE notes the availability of indirect cost revenues received from federal contracts and grants as an available source of seed money and matching funds for projects such as those proposed in this bill.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What has been accomplished with funds appropriated by the 2004 legislature?
2. Does NNMCC currently have staff qualified to provide all or part of the curriculum?
3. What is the status of the program establishment and accreditation effort?
4. What is the status of the partnership with New Mexico Highlands University?
5. How will this funding be utilized?

**AW/njw**