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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodriguez DATE TYPED 02/14/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE High School Mock Trial Program SB 407

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$200.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for the University of New Mexico in the General Appropriations Act.
Relates to SJM29

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 407 – Making an Appropriation for the Mock Trial Program – appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for expenditure in FY06 for the School of Law to conduct the New Mexico high school mock trial program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED indicates that the University of New Mexico (UNM) Mock Trial program is a hands-on experience for high school students to develop their understanding of law and the judicial process. Students, teacher advisers and attorney coaches spend the better part of the school year research-

ing, studying and preparing a hypothetical courtroom trial involving critical issues that are important and interesting to young people. In February, state regional competitions are held in Las Cruces, Albuquerque and Santa Fe in which the teams try their cases before judges and panels of jurors. In March, the eight finalists meet in Albuquerque to name a state champion who will represent New Mexico at the national championship in May. New Mexico has been very involved in this student program over the years and hosted the national competition in 1999.

PED additionally suggests that the UNM Mock Trial experience is a successful example of constructivist learning that incorporates the following principles of effective instruction:

- Instruction must be concerned with the experiences and contexts that make the student willing and able to learn (readiness).
- Instruction must be structured so that it can be easily grasped by the student (spiral organization).
- Instruction should be designed to facilitate extrapolation and/or fill in the gaps (going beyond the information given)

CHE indicates that UNM requested \$75,000 in non-recurring, FY06 expansion funding from CHE for the mock trial program. CHE subsequently recommended continuation of recurring funding in the amount of \$23,800.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$200,000 appropriation would be 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

The University of New Mexico will retain administrative oversight of this project.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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

Relates to SJM29 in that SJM29 requests the Public Education Department to assess the alignment of school districts' social studies curricula to the New Mexico social studies standards over the past five years, with emphasis on the content standards dealing with government and civics.

BFW/yr