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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Jennings DATE TYPED 03-04-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMMI Public Safety officer Education SB 747

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB748

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LFC Files
- New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
- New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI)
- New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 747 – Relating to the Development of Public Safety Officers; Providing for a Scholarship Program at the New Mexico Military Institute to Educate New Mexico Residents for Careers as Public Safety Officers – provides for the development of public safety officers for New Mexico through the establishment of a safety officer education program at the New Mexico Military Institute and provides means for a scholarship program to educate New Mexico residents for careers as public safety officers. There is no appropriation attached to this legislation.

Significant Issues

This legislation seeks to authorize NMMI and DPS to begin an affiliation so as to allow for the establishment of a scholarship program – subject to available funding – to attract and retain New Mexico residents interested in public safety careers in the state.

PED notes that, presently, students are being recruited by other states that can provide scholarships in public safety education and these students do not return to New Mexico. This initiative would require that scholarship recipients commit to four years of employment in public safety careers in New Mexico.

This bill additionally seeks to give the Secretary of Public Safety power to enter into an agreement with the NMMI Board of Regents under which it:

- would offer public safety officer education scholarships to New Mexico residents, subject to available funding;
- may provide criteria for recruiting scholarship applicants and awarding scholarships; and,
- may provide for internship programs at public safety agencies for scholarship recipients.

Additionally, the bill seeks to enable the Secretary of Public Safety – subject to available appropriations – to transfer funds each fiscal year to the NMMI Board of Regents for the scholarship program.

NMMI indicates that the military environment of the New Mexico Military Institute lends itself well to those interested in careers in public safety. Further that concentration is on a complete education curriculum – not just a training program – with the focus on internship programs as an essential adjunct to the education and training process. NMMI observes that many of its graduates have chosen careers in public safety and this program will enhance that relationship

The New Mexico State Police state the following:

A program like this would be a strong win-win situation for DPS, NMMI and the students involved in the program. This could be an excellent and important recruiting opportunity for DPS.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Such scholarship students will be obligated to serve in New Mexico public safety capacities as determined by a formal agreement between DPS, NMMI and the student.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB748 in that SB748 seeks to establish a similar relationship between NMMI and the New Mexico Corrections Department so as to provide for the development of correctional officers in the state.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED notes that language in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 31 [Appropriations for charitable, educational, etc., purposes.] – “No appropriation shall be made for charitable, educational or other benevolent purposes to any person, corporation, association,

institution or community, not under the absolute control of the state, but the legislature may, in its discretion, make appropriations for the charitable institutions and hospitals, for the maintenance of which annual appropriations were made by the legislative assembly of nineteen hundred and nine" – requires legislative action for these purposes.

BFW/yr