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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nunez **DATE TYPED** 01/28/05 **HB** 193

SHORT TITLE Create Water Resources Research Institute **SB** _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Finance Authority
 New Mexico State University, Water Resources Research Institute

No Response From

Commission on Higher Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 193 – Relating to Higher Education, Creating the Water Resources Research Institute – establishes a Water Resources Research Institute (WRI) division at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Participating with the WRI will be the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico Highlands University, Eastern New Mexico University and Western New Mexico University.

The NMSU board of regents shall prepare reports showing the progress and condition of the WRI, and through the NMSU board of regents the WRI may receive legislative appropriations and other public and private items of value.

There is no appropriation attached to this bill.

Significant Issues

The WRRRI was originally authorized by the 1964 Water Resources Act and was one of the first institutes approved in the US. The overall mission of the WRRRI is to develop and disseminate knowledge that will assist the state and nation in solving water problems. Through the funding of research and demonstration projects, the institute utilizes the knowledge and experience of researchers throughout the state to solve New Mexico's pressing water problems. Research is conducted by faculty and students within the departmental structure of each New Mexico university campus. In-house staff administers the institute's programs, conducts special research projects, and produces a variety of issue reports.

This bill formally establishes the WRRRI as a NMSU division and, as WRRRI indicates, statutory authority will stabilize and expand the research program in terms of technical research product, student training, and information for water management with additional data.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

While there is no appropriation attached to this particular bill, the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation* reflects the following history for this WRRRI program:

- 2003-04 (Recurring Appropriation) - \$455.9
- 2004-05 (Recurring Appropriation) - \$438.0

For FY06 CHE recommends \$590.8, a 34.9 percent increase over FY05.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

WRRRI notes that no new FTEs will be required.

BFW/lg