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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos DATE TYPED 2/20/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Immersion Language Program SB 567

ANALYST Woods

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$250.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the Appropriation for New Mexico Highlands University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB543

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 567 – Making an Appropriation for a Language Immersion Program at New Mexico Highlands University – appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for expenditure in FY06 to support an English-Spanish language immersion program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

#### Significant Issues

PED indicates that if this legislation is successful, individuals from different disciplines, including teachers from New Mexico and Mexico, will have the opportunity to improve or expand their

knowledge of the Spanish/English language and culture through an immersion program. Language immersion programs are recognized as one of the best models for achieving language proficiency. As general background information, PED further notes that:

- the Spanish language is the second most commonly spoken language in the United States, and it is second in the world as a language of business (Source: Spanish Embassy Report);
- HB212, approved by the 2003 Legislature, requires students (K-12) to be proficient in two languages (English and a second language, which could be Spanish);
- New Mexico has been a leader in the nation in recognizing the academic, economic and social value of being bilingual. Since 1973, the *Bilingual Multicultural Education Act* has provided financial support for programs that allow students to become proficient in two languages, English and a second language (one of which is Spanish), and to succeed academically;
- currently, there is a significant need to continue and expand preparation programs for individuals in various disciplines to become bilingual;
- NMHU has been an leader in educating and preparing teachers to serve the needs of students of Hispanic descent; and
- for the 2004-2005 academic school year, 174,165 students (53.3 percent of all students) attending New Mexico public schools are of Hispanic descent (Source: ADS 40<sup>th</sup> Report);

CHE indicates this request was not in the list of priority projects submitted by New Mexico Highlands University to the Commission on Higher Education for review. Accordingly, the request was not included in the commission's funding recommendation for FY06.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

PED suggests that, if enacted, this legislation would impact a core performance measure that assesses students in grades 3 to 9 on achieving proficiency or above on the New Mexico criterion-referenced assessments in reading/language arts and math.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$250,000 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.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to the Appropriation for New Mexico Highlands University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB543 in that HB543 also seeks to appropriate \$250,000 from the general fund to the

Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to support an English-Spanish language immersion program. However, HB543 seeks to appropriate the funds for FY06 and subsequent fiscal years and indicates that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

BFW/yr