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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/06

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED _____ HB 244

SHORT TITLE UNM Sustainability Studies Program SB _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$243.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 333.
House Capital Outlay Request 73 is a companion to this bill.
Relates to House Bill 243.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (ENMRD)
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 244 appropriates \$243,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to support the sustainability studies program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$243,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This request does not appear on the University of New Mexico's institutional request for FY07 and is not included in the New Mexico Higher Education Department's recommendations.

DUPLICATION RELATIONSHIP AND COMPANIONSHIP

This is a duplicate of Senate Bill 330. It is related to House Bill 243, which appropriates \$120,000 for the same purpose.

House Capital Outlay Request 73 is a companion bill, requesting \$35,000 for equipment to demonstrate the production and uses of biodiesel fuels.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the Higher Education Department, the Sustainability Studies Program at UNM provides leadership and solutions to tackle the sustainability challenge. Knowledge from the sciences, humanities, and arts will percolate through collaborations both on and off campus. Sustainability studies facilitate new career paths and job opportunities in the development of sustainable:

- *energies*: solar, wind, biomass and vegetable fuels, etc.
- *design*: architecture, neighborhoods, rural-urban interactions, building, and construction
- *technologies*: transportation, water re-use, local food production, waste disposal, water retention, etc.
- *decision making*: urban planning, public transportation, public policy, resource use, art, culture, economics, etc.
- *collaborations*: academic, business, community, state, non-profit, global.

The Higher Education Department also notes that this request will support staff for the program. Staff members include an administrative assistant, curriculum coordinator, and a Lecturer III position. There will be \$10,000 set aside for student scholarships to attract more students to this new program.

CH/nt