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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/06

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones, J. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 364

SHORT TITLE Emergency Planning for Certain Counties SB _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$3,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 364 appropriates \$3,000,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for expenditure in fiscal year 2007 to develop emergency operations preparedness and planning for small municipalities and counties with a population of fifty thousand or fewer persons. NMIMT would also develop a template model of emergency operations preparedness that could be customized to work in all small communities.

Of the total appropriation amount, \$500,000 would be used to defray the expenses of planning and participating in an exercise that will be conducted in the City of Deming in Luna County to validate the emergency preparedness model.

The NMIMT will also be required to provide an interim report (no later than November 2006) and a final report (no later than September 2007) to the relevant interim legislative committees on progress, planning and model development.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3,000,000 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 proposal was not included in NMIMT's budget request to the Higher Education Department, and was not reviewed or recommended. It was also not included in the Legislative Finance Committee's budget recommendations.

The Executive budget recommends \$29,515,600 for the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program, and the LFC budget recommendation is \$29,271,900. The mission of this program includes the activities proposed by House Bill 364.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Public Safety, which currently administers the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program, identifies this proposed legislation as a potential conflict with the program. They also raise the issue of the relevant resources and qualifications for emergency management at NMIMT.

NMIMT trains emergency responders from all parts of the country through their Energetic Materials Research and Training Center. According to the *Executive Budget Recommendation*, DPS has coordinated with NMIMT in emergency preparedness training in prior fiscal years.

CONFLICT AND RELATIONSHIP

If House Bill 314 (Homeland Security & Emergency Management Act) is adopted, coordination of this initiative might fall under the jurisdiction of the proposed Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This may not be a conflict, since two of the responsibilities of the proposed office are to “coordinate state agency and local government plans for prevention, preparedness and response with a focus on an all-hazards approach” and “work with emergency response and emergency management programs and provide assistance in developing and conducting terrorism response exercises for emergency responders, government officials, health care providers and others.”

House Bill 364 would place NMIMT in the role of a potential service provider to the proposed Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the Higher Education Department, the bill's effort will address training for state and local law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and others involved in first responder crisis management for small municipalities. Operations include training on how to manage planning for emergency preparedness that may include terrorist weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological, and large-scale blast devices.

ALTERNATIVES

The proposed appropriation could flow through the existing Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program.

CH/mt