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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/06

SPONSOR Varela LAST UPDATED _____ HB 593

SHORT TITLE NMHU Padre Antonio José Martínez Symposium SB _____

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	65.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 593 appropriates \$65,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for a symposium on Padre Antonio José Martínez.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$65,000 contained in this bill is a non-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

According to Father Juan Romero, who has written and spoken about Padre Martínez since the mid 1970s, Padre Antonio José Martínez (1793-1867), Cura de Taos, was a towering figure of 19th century history. His life spanned the transcendent epoch of New Mexico history as part of Spain, Mexico and the United States. He was an

- educator (primary school, seminary and law school);
- publisher (New Mexico's first press, newspaper, book and treatises on topics of education, philosophy, theology and politics); and
- politician (on New Mexico's Legislative Assembly six times under Mexican government and seven times under the United States).

(<http://journals.aol.com/juanrvi/PadreAntonioJosMartinezCuradeTao/>)

According to Lasting Impressions: the Private Presses of New Mexico, Padre Antonio José Martínez was born in Abiquiú, studied for the priesthood in Durango, Mexico, and was entrusted with the curacy of Taos in 1826. He was one of the most influential figures of 19th century New Mexico. He was a champion of the poor and a pioneer in the field of education. He was responsible for producing the first printed books in the territory during the volatile period of transition from Mexican to American rule.

Lasting Impressions adds that Padre Martínez acquired New Mexico's first press in 1836, within a year of its arrival in Santa Fe, and moved it to Taos. Under his direction, printer Jesús María Baca produced Spanish language material. For a little more than a decade the press poured out primers for use in the Martínez schools, along with religious tracts and political and autobiographical works penned by the priest.

(http://www.privatepress.org/exhibition/padre_martinez.html)

ML/mt