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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-8-2006

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NMHU International Student Recruitment SB 436

ANALYST Dearing

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico of Higher Education Department (NMHED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 436 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to the New Mexico Highlands University Board of Regents for the purpose of enhancing the university's program to recruit international students at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 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

SB436 provides funding to expand NMHU's International Student Recruitment program for marketing materials and scholarship initiatives for the recruitment of international students.

SB436 contains a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation that the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) considers this funding to be non-recurring. For FY06, NMHU's International Student Recruitment program received a \$38,000 General Fund non-recurring appropria-

tion contained in SB190, Laws 2005, Ch. 34, 47th Legislature, 1st Session.

However, this request was not on the list of FY07 priority projects submitted by NMHU to the NMHED for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY07.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMHU has not provided data regarding how this funding appropriation is to be administered.

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

Relates to: HB2; HB7; SB1

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

In our research of this bill, NMHED used the most recent data available from the Fall 2004 semester to compare the number of enrolled international students at all state colleges and universities (two-year and four-year institutions) with those enrolled at NMHU. The data showed a total of 1,782 international students were enrolled in state colleges and universities with 78%, (1,384) in graduate programs and 22% (398) in undergraduate programs.

In reviewing NMHU's international student enrollment for this period, the university had a total of 38 students (30 graduate and 8 undergraduate). This corresponds to 2.2% international graduate students and 2% international undergraduate students statewide. NMHU primarily offers undergraduate degrees which may make it difficult to recruit a critical mass of international graduate students. Twenty-five of NMHU's international graduate students were concentrated in such fields of studies as: Business Administration and Management; General Biology; and General Chemistry. As for the 8 undergraduate international students, 3 were in General Chemistry with the rest comprised of a single individual in Accounting; General Communications; General Computer/Information Sciences; General Finance; and General Psychology.

Subsequently, the data showed that NMHU does not offer the types of major course studies that are attracting the bulk of international students (both graduate and undergraduate) to New Mexico. In the areas of the hard sciences and engineering, most international students are enrolling at the state's three research universities: New Mexico Tech, University of New Mexico (UNM), and New Mexico State University (NMSU).

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

**NMHU's International student recruitment program will remain in its current state.**

PD/mt