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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2007

SPONSOR Gutierrez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 112

SHORT TITLE NMSU Mental Health Improvement Program SB _____

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$400.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 141.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University – School of Nursing (NMSU-N)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 112 appropriates \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 2008 to educate psychiatric nurse parishioners and clinical nurse specialists through the School of Nursing's Mental Health Improvement Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU-N Analysis

NMSU's psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist program has been funded since July 2004 through a \$1.1 million federal grant. **(Federal funding ends 6/30/07)**

- a. This grant (referred to as MIND) uses comprehensive distance education methods to allow students from throughout the state (many from rural areas/underserved areas) to become PMH NP/CNS while remaining in their home communities. Research has consistently demonstrated the importance of this educational approach for increasing health care access in rural and underserved areas.
- b. Currently, 29 MIND students are enrolled, 4 are projected to graduate in May 2007, and 19 are projected to graduate in May 2008. Over 40 applications have been received for the next admission cycle which has an upcoming application deadline of March 1, 2007.

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by NMSU to the Higher Education Department for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 141 is a duplicate.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH Analysis

According to a July 15, 2002 report entitled, "Behavioral Health Needs and Gaps in New Mexico," by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. and Human Services Research Institute, "(a) large number of New Mexicans are affected by mental illness/emotional disturbance and/or substance abuse or dependence." The report further states the economic benefits of mental health services; "For every dollar invested in mental health services, there is as much as \$10 saved in other social, governmental, and economic costs."

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The scope of psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist track offered by New Mexico State University and the number of students admitted and completing the program will significantly decrease to the pre-grant level (5 students every other year) and the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist tract may be eliminated.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Does NMSU, that did not request funding from the state for this program, expect the continuation of federal funding or the availability of other funding to support this program?

BM/csd