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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/2007

SPONSOR A. Lujan LAST UPDATED _____ HB 240

SHORT TITLE OUTPATIENT MEDICINE RESEARCH SB _____

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$489.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 84.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 240 appropriates \$489,000 from the General Fund in FY08 to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the New Mexico Health Sciences Center (HSC). The funding is to sustain and improve research involving an outpatient medicine program and a practice-based research network that provides continuing medical education, clinical research and outreach programs for rural clinicians and to support retention of clinicians in underserved areas.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$489,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Bill 240 addresses a long standing, difficult problem in rural New Mexico with the shortages and availability of health care professionals. Almost every health professional that is licensed in New Mexico is in short supply in most rural locations of the state. This includes physicians, dentists, nurses, dental hygienists, physical therapists, pharmacists, radiological technologists, dieticians, optometrists, medical technologists, audiologists, occupational therapists, mental health professionals, social workers, and EMT-Paramedics as well as others. 32 of our 33 counties are considered partial or complete Health Professional Shortage Areas using definitions of shortage established by the federal government.

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by UNM Health Sciences Center to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 240, conceptually, is a duplicate of SB 84. If actual duplication is desired, either HB 240 or SB 84 must be amended.

BM/mt