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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hamilton ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/2007  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 402  
SHORT TITLE WNMU Web-Based Criminal Justice Program SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST McOlash

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$375.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 402 appropriates \$375,000 from the General Fund to the Regents of WNMU for expenditure in FY 2008 to “establish and maintain a web-based criminal justice program at western New Mexico university.”

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$375,000 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

The Criminal Justice program at WNMU offers three levels of training. The Law Enforcement Academy is a five-month program that meets legislative requirements for police officer training

in New Mexico. When a student completes the program, he or she takes the state certification examination. If the exam is passed, the student is automatically certified as a police officer upon employment with a law enforcement agency.

The University also offers Associate's (2 years) and Bachelor's (4 years) degrees in Criminal Justice. Both degree programs can be completed - in their entirety - anywhere one has access to the internet. Every required course and elective necessary for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice is available online in a sequence that enables anyone to graduate in four years of full-time study.

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

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

According the WNMU web site, a web-based criminal justice program has been established and has been operational for several years. It would appear that HB 402 provides an appropriation to maintain and expand this program.

If these programs already exist, WNMU should be receiving some level of formula funding to maintain the course offerings.

BM/nt