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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/13/07

SPONSOR Komadina LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Institute of Public Health Costs SB 45

ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$500.1	Recurring	General fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 45 appropriates \$500,060 from the general fund to UNM's Institute of Public Health for expenditure in FY08 as follows:

- (1) \$387,783 for personnel costs; and
- (2) \$112,277 for equipment upgrades.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500,060 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund. These funds will augment funding received by UNM through the General Appropriation Act for the operation of the Institute of Public Health.

This appropriation will help fund a regional MPH extension program similar to the highly successful MPH demonstration program located in Shiprock. Like the Shiprock students, those in the extension program will be in the workforce while attending MPH courses.

This proposal and an appropriation request for \$500,060 thousand were submitted to the HED by UNM Health Sciences Center and were not included in the Departments funding recommendation for FY08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This requested appropriation will create a regional extension of the Master's in Public Health Program for people in the public health system; make available continuing education and support for people working in the system; explore the feasibility of a doctoral level program in public health jointly at UNM and NMSU; and, enhance and strengthen the UNM MPH Program in the area of environmental health.

The regional extension MPH efficiently develops a skilled workforce. Students hold jobs and are able to apply what they learn as they learn it. Gallup is chosen for the next cycle because of the likelihood of concurrent financial support from the Indian Health Service and Navajo Nation and an active interest at the Gallup Branch. The program will move on from Gallup after one or two cycles of students to a new extension site identified on the basis of need and feasibility

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NM is not unique in having a public health workforce that lacks professional training. Only a small minority of professionals in the Department of Health have specific training in public health. This is a problem for NM as the State struggles to grapple to improve the health status of its population and reduce disparities. It is also a problem that will become more critical as departments of public health move toward a system of national accreditation.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Services of the Institute of Public Health may be limited.

AHO/nt