

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/12/2007

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE RESIDENT TUITION FOR CERTAIN IMMIGRANTS SB 374

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	Indeterminate		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
NM Department of Higher Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 374 amends Section 21-1-3 NMSA 1978 to provide resident tuition and fees at New Mexico public colleges and universities to Mexican Citizens and Latin American Citizens who are Fulbright scholars, or consejo nacional de ciencia y tecnologia scholars (Mexican National Science Foundation), or who are from countries participating in the Organization of American States Educational Portal (OASEP).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed amendment would potentially decrease revenue due to its impact on tuition payment at resident student rates, budget, and revenue calculations at state institutions and will include Mexican or Latin American citizens who are participating in the OASEP, or who are Fulbright or Mexican National Science Foundation scholars.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB374 is not on the list of priority projects recommended by the NMHED for FY08.

HED indicates that Fulbright scholars, Mexican National Science Foundation scholars and OASEP students apply to top rated American universities where in-state tuition is currently offered. SB374 offers resident tuition rates at one of New Mexico's (NM) four year institutions for top international students. According to UNM's VP of Academic Affairs, NM loses student recruits to other top-rated universities because NM does not offer in-state tuition rates to these highly sought after scholars.

Fulbright grants are made to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Since the program's inception, more than 273,500 participants chosen for their leadership potential have had the opportunity to observe each other's political, economic and cultural institutions (Council of International Exchange of Scholars website).

The Mexican National Science Foundation provides academic support for students studying the hard sciences such as physics, computer science, chemistry, biology and geology.

OASEP (Portal) was launched in 1991 under the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). The main objectives of the Portal are to promote new educational methods, such as distance learning, and to disseminate training opportunities of high academic quality. The OASEP is an Internet site where all citizens of the Americas can quickly and easily access information regarding the best distance educational opportunities available in the region.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) is currently offering 2 free non-credit courses to students registered to use the Portal. The 2 free courses are Quality in Basic Education and Education in Nutrition and are being taught by UNM professors. The OASEP program at UNM is still being developed and is not up-and-running with credit courses for which tuition can be charged. Therefore, tuition is not currently being charged to Mexican and Latin American students who are taking the courses.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HED states that this amendment would impact tuition payment at resident student rates, budget, and revenue calculations at state institutions and will include Mexican or Latin American citizens who are participating in the OASEP, or who are Fulbright or Mexican National Science Foundation scholars.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The catalogs at UNM and NMSU provide the following stipulations for OASEP/IACD applicants who wish to pursue a degree at the respective institutions:

OASEP/IACD scholarship applicants may apply to any graduate department at UNM, except for the medical sciences, introductory language programs, and some professional programs. UNM offers 36 masters programs and 36 doctoral programs and several certificate programs. Applicants must also apply for an Amigo International Scholarship. Deadlines and application procedures must be followed for successful admission to the program.

NMSU OASEP scholarship recipients may enroll in any program that NMSU offers as long as they meet general admission requirements, departmental requirements (for graduate students), and Alumni Scholarship requirements. Students must meet Alumni Scholarship requirements and maintain those requirements in order to qualify for in-state tuition rates.

NMSU offers 74 programs at the bachelors level, 51 at the masters level, and 24 at the doctoral level. All degree programs are offered by the following colleges: Agriculture & Home Economics, Business Administration & Economics, Education, Engineering, Arts & Sciences, Health & Social Services ,as well as the Graduate School.

The OASEP announced recently that it is donating 1,500 scholarships to UNM to train teachers in the State of New Mexico. The scholarships will be used for online courses offered through the Educational Portal of the Americas (www.educoas.org) of the Institute of Advanced Studies of the Americas.

GM/mt