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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Taylor ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/2007
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE NMSU Viticulture Program SB 1100
ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$85.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (NMHED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 1100 appropriates \$85,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to pay for the Viticulture Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$85,000 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This request was not submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for review. The Department's funding recommendation for FY08 is a continuance of FY07 recurring funding in the amount of \$71,900.

Senate Bill 1100 – Page 2

With 2005 funding, NMSU hired its first viticulturist. The Viticulture Program has conducted surveys of vineyards statewide to prioritize problems producers face, soil testing, and chemistry experiments on New Mexico wines to see how growing techniques affect quality. The primary goal of this bill is to increase agricultural research and grower assistance programs at NMSU with the aim of boosting wine production statewide.

Currently, the program works with one viticulturist to conduct limited outreach programs with New Mexico wineries and vineyards to work on new varieties and research. This appropriation would be added to the current operating budget for program expansion.

GM/csd