

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 1/23/08

SPONSOR Salazar LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 133

SHORT TITLE Rural Area Healthcare Career Training SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 7

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 133 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to establish a demonstration and research program that will better prepare undergraduate students from small universities for successful entry into medical school or other related health fields. This includes a focused undergraduate curriculum, summer science academies, remote learning, medical school entrance examination preparation and mentoring by rural physicians and physicians associated with the New Mexico Hispanic medical association.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that this request was not submitted by NMHU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to NMHU, the University anticipates that the funding requested will help develop and grow the small existing pre-med program at the University and help meet the need for more medical professionals in rural areas of New Mexico. There is evidence that health care providers from small rural communities are more likely to return to similar communities to practice their profession. The difficulty in recruiting students from these communities to health career tracks is due, in part, to the limited availability of pre-professional courses in small school districts, and the lack of formal training opportunities for entrance exams. This approach may help increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the health care field working with racial and ethnic minorities living in rural areas of the state.

The HED states that according to enrollment data submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department, in the Spring 2007 semester a total of 301 medical students were enrolled at UNM Medical School. Only 10 of those students, approximately 3%, graduated from a smaller university in New Mexico. Two students graduated from New Mexico Highlands University, five graduated from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and three graduated from Western New Mexico University.

**DUPLICATION**

Duplicates SB 7 except for bill title.

GH/jp