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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED 1/29/08 HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Rural Health Care Outreach Program SB 93

ANALYST Cox

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$1,800.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 University of New Mexico (UNM)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 New Mexico Health Policy Commission – HPC

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 93 appropriates \$1,800,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY 2009. In partnership with the New Mexico State University (NMSU) network of Cooperative Extension Service offices, SB93 funding will support a comprehensive rural health care outreach program creating Health Extension Rural Offices (HEROs) so that local health priorities can be addressed more effectively.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Higher Education Department states that:

Per UNM 2008 Legislative Priority information and other articles found on the UNM and NMSU websites, SB 93 supports the implementation of Health Extension Rural Offices or HEROs throughout New Mexico. Based in existing NMSU Cooperative Extension Service offices, the HEROs would become a bridge between communities and health experts and resources at both universities. Through the collaboration with NMSU and with support from other planned partners (UNM Office of Community Health and NMSU College of Health and Social Services), the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC) intends to:

- Address prevention and the major health problems affecting New Mexicans
- Improve the health of underserved communities by providing more regular access to health care professionals
- Reduce health disparities

Department of Health says that many rural areas of New Mexico are considered federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA). Currently, 31 of New Mexico's 33 counties are designated as HPSAs. SB93 aims to improve resources, communication and healthcare information in New Mexico's rural counties by supporting cooperative outreach activities of the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Program.

NMSU notes that New Mexico needs to improve K-12 education and student retention in order to ensure a continuing pipeline for future leaders in the technical and engineering areas. Additionally due to various emerging environmental regulations, rural communities throughout New Mexico need to receive on-going training, education and outreach on the potential impact of the new regulations on their community. This bill would provide funds for expansion of the statewide K-12 program for middle and high school students, as well as rural communities throughout the state starting with Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero. The program would be delivered by New Mexico State University's College of Engineering-IEE/WERC Program.

DUPLICATE RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 93 is a duplicate Bill of House Bill 428

PRC/mt