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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/09

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NMSU Speech-Language Pathology Project SB 53

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)  
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Higher Education Department (HED)  
 Public Education Department (PED)  
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 53 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to support the Speech-Language Pathology and Special Education Extension Outreach project.

### 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 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The HED states that this request was submitted by NMSU to the HED for review. The Department would not oppose this project's funding for FY10, if the State's fiscal picture improves.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

The DFA notes that The bill contains an appropriation of \$250.0 from General Fund which would further strain the limited General Fund resources available in FY09 and FY10.

NMSU states that the Speech-Language Pathology and Special Education Extension Outreach project is designed to provide K-12 support to school districts in Southern New Mexico via extension services and outreach offered by the NMSU Special Education/Communication Disorders Department and the NMSU Speech and Hearing Center. An outreach Coordinator, Master Clinician (speech-language pathology), and Master Teacher (special education) would be utilized within an extension model to assess and respond to district needs in the field. District-based training and technical support to school personnel regarding issues of disability identification, service delivery models, research-based intervention strategies, and response to intervention would be provided.

The PED notes that Speech Language Pathology is a recognized related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In New Mexico, Speech Language Pathology is also recognized as special education for those students who qualify for speech-only services. The speech language pathology services are provided in the educational setting as part of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The DOH notes that within New Mexico and nationally, there is a shortage of Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs). The 2004 American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Schools Survey indicated that 62% of ASHA-certified school-based SLPs indicated shortage of qualified SLPs in their school district to provide federally mandated therapies. This is also true for both urban and rural settings. New Mexico also has a shortage of SLPs who can provide services to a culturally and linguistically diverse population.

GH/mt