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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/12

SPONSOR Jennings LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Students in Dental Program SB 171

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, See Section 4, J Higher Education Department, Student Financial Aid.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The New Mexico Students in Dental Program bill appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the HED for the purpose of adding four additional scholarships available to students attending western-area dental schools.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY13 shall revert to the general fund.

The bill would add funding for four additional dental students from New Mexico who attend dental schools participating in the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) dental consortium. Since New Mexico does not have a dental school, New Mexico students interested in dentistry can receive a state scholarship (avg. \$24,000 year) to attend a WICHE-participating dental school if the student returns to New Mexico to practice.

In the past, the HED has provided four years of scholarship support for up to 10 students who are guaranteed admission at a participating WICHE school – all other interested students are considered in the regular pool of dental school applicants. In FY12, the HED received general fund appropriations for 8 scholarships. The Executive's and the Legislative Finance Committee's FY13 general fund recommend funding at the FY12 level.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico currently has a dental provider shortage when compared to the rest of the United States. In 2000, New Mexico had a median number of one dentist to every 3,297 people, compared to the federal standard of one dentist to every 1,050 people.

This \$100,000 appropriation will cover the costs for approximately 40% of each of the four student's tuition. Students receiving a WICHE dental scholarship may receive other financial aid, including scholarships and loans, to cover their total cost of attendance.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no performance implications for this program or funding.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None. The HED already administers the WICHE Dental Program and other WICHE professional student exchange programs.

THT/svb