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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE**  
**LAST UPDATED** 01/26/15 **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR** Beffort

**SHORT TITLE** Medical, Dental & Behavioral Health Recruits **SB** 155

**ANALYST** Dunbar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

University of New Mexico, Health Services Center (UNM, HSC)

### SUMMARY

Senate Bill 155 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for expenditure in FY16 for the expansion of primary care medical and dental health care professional recruitment and adds the recruitment of behavioral health care professionals to the state.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation is not included in the Executive Budget Request.

Similar funding is currently included in the DOH base budget, in the amount of \$194 thousand.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to DOH, the goal of the bill is to increase the supply of practicing primary care professionals in rural and underserved areas of the state, especially increasing the ability of local and national outreach efforts to recruit, refer, and retain them. A particular goal of the bill is to

develop an organized capacity to recruit psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers to practice within the behavioral health system. This is spurred by the on-going process of integrating behavioral health into the community health centers throughout the state.

There are concerted efforts being made throughout the state to increase recruitment and retention activities such as increasing numbers of behavioral health providers in the non-profit systems of care, local clinic expansions, and to integrate behavioral health into primary care clinics.

UNM reports that the New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee's 2014 annual report states that "Full implementation of the Patient and Affordable Care Act has made health care workforce demand a national issue. New Mexico in particular faces unique challenges due to its geographic size, large percentage of rural and underserved populations and limited institutions and infrastructure for training doctors, nurses, dentists and other practitioners, as compared to more densely populated states."

Moreover, UNM states that according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are significant primary care medical, dental and behavioral health shortages in nearly every New Mexico County; thirty-two of New Mexico's 33 counties are full or partial federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary medical care.

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