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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Wallace	DATE TYPED:	02/04/00	HB	327
SHORT TITLE:	Occupational & Physical Therapy			SB	
				ANALYST:	Pacheco-Perez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	\$ 150.0			Rec	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB17

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARYSynopsis of Bill

This bill appropriates \$150.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the purpose of converting existing undergraduate programs in occupational therapy and physical therapy to master's level programs in order to meet increased licensing education requirements. This bill carries an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund for expenditure in fiscal years 2000 and 2001. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY01 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill provides funding to add 4.0 FTE to the UNM Medical School.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to House Bill 17.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to CHE, physical and occupational therapists are increasingly being expected to function as health care professionals to address complex patient needs. The national accrediting associations therefore concluded that the public would be better served if therapists were educated at the post-baccalaureate level. With this mandate, UNM must upgrade to master's-level degrees in order to graduate students who would then be eligible for licensure. Funding for the master's-level degrees will be phased into the UNM Medical School as students enroll for the programs. However, because the higher education funding formula uses a three-year rolling average, full funding of the programs will not be generated until FY04.

CHE recommends that the following language be included for all new recurring higher education programs: "A plan for a program evaluation, including specific program goals and criteria for assessing program effectiveness shall be submitted to the LFC and CHE by October 1, 2000. An assessment of the program will be completed prior to June 30, 2001 and submitted to the LFC and CHE."

APP/gm