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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Pederson	DATE TYPED:	02/15/00	HB	459/aHEC
SHORT TITLE:	Create McKinley County Learning Center			SB	
				ANALYST:	Pacheco-Perez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	\$ 75.0			Rec	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 311

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

This amendment adds the following language: "A plan for a program evaluation, including specific program goals and criteria for assessing effectiveness shall be submitted to the LFC and the CHE by August 1, 2000 and an assessment shall be completed annually."

Synopsis of Bill

This bill appropriates \$75.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for use by the Gallup branch to establish and initially operate the McKinley county learning center. The appropriation shall be used in the same manner as funding that is provided to universities for residence instruction.

Significant Issues

According to CHE, learning centers must be reviewed by CHE and established by the Legislature. CHE has not reviewed the proposal for a McKinley county learning center until UNM main campus officials discuss the proposal with UNM-Gallup branch campus.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY01 shall revert to the general fund.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

This bill duplicates Senate Bill 311.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to CHE, as an alternative, UNM-Gallup could broker upper division and graduate level courses with other higher education institutions through extended services instruction.

CHE recommends that the following language be included for all new recurring higher education programs:
"The institution receiving the special appropriation in this bill shall submit a program evaluation to the LFC and the CHE by August 1, 2003 detailing the benefits to the State from having this program implemented for a three-year period."

APP/gm