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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Rawson DATE TYPED: 02/6/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Sloan Digital Sky Survey SB 168
 ANALYST: Gilbert

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 500.0			Non-Rec	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates House Bill 295

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Commission for Higher Education (CHE)
 CHE Files - Special Funding Requests Submitted by NMSU

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 168 appropriates \$500.0 to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to enable NMSU to participate in the Sloan digital sky survey of the astrophysical research consortium.

Significant Issues

NMSU is currently responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Sloan digital telescope. This advanced research facility is located at Apache Point in Otero County. This telescope allows advanced spectroscopic and other analyses of stars.

The purpose of the Sloan digital sky survey is to produce a complete map of the universe using the Sloan digital telescope in conjunction with several other research entities: the University of Chicago, the Fermi Laboratory, the Institute for Advanced Studies, the Japan Participatory Group, John Hopkins University, Princeton University, the U.S. Naval Observatory, and the University of Washington currently participate in this consortium. This funding will allow NMSU to join these prestigious institutions in this astrophysical research consortium.

All New Mexico higher education institutions were asked to provide to the CHE with an overall priority listing of all new and expansion research and public service project requests. NMSU

provided a categorical priority list which included funding for the Sloan digital sky survey. The NMSU board of Regents also recommended this project as a priority for funding.

The CHE did not recommend expansion funding for this program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY02 shall revert to the general fund.

LG/njw