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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nava DATE TYPED: 1/24/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: NMSU Teacher Distance Education SB 95

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$500.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act for New Mexico State University

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University
Commission on Higher Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 95 appropriates \$500.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for distance education technology to be used to offer licensure programs for teachers throughout the state who have substandard licenses in special education, bilingual education, speech and language pathology, public school administration, information technology and school counseling.

Significant Issues

This program expansion was recommended for funding by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents, but it was not recommended for funding by the Commission on Higher Education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. While it is considered a one-time expansion cost by the university, its continued funding through the funding formula makes it a recurring expense. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to statistics available to Commission of Higher Education staff, individuals without appropriate licenses or endorsements fill 12% of teaching positions in New Mexico public schools. The use of distance education technology would provide access to courses required for certification and/or endorsement to teachers who are "place and time bound" and can upgrade their skills primarily through alternative education methods.

AMENDMENTS

In its analysis, "the Commission on Higher Education suggests adding the following language for all new recurring higher education programs and expansion of current programs:

"The institution receiving the appropriation in this bill shall submit a program evaluation to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education by June 30, 2005 detailing the benefits of the State of New Mexico from having implemented this program over a three year period."

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Given the need to upgrade the knowledge and skills of individuals teaching without the appropriate certification, has the University attempted to share the training costs with the affected with public school districts?
2. Working in collaboration with school district personnel, could funds for training be obtained from federal programs such as Title 1 or No Child Left Behind ?

LRB/njw