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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Hamilton DATE TYPED: 2/18/03 HB 256/aHEC

SHORT TITLE: WNMU School of Education SB _____

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$988.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: SB192

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From
State Department of Education (SDE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment adds an evaluation component suggested by the CHE:

“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 to the State of New Mexico from having this program implemented for a three-year period.”

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 256 appropriates \$988.0 for expenditure in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University (WNMU) from the general fund to establish a network for web-based teacher licensure.

The bill carries an emergency clause.

Significant Issues

The bill provides funding for WNMU for a web-based teacher preparation program to deliver WNMU professional education courses through distance technology. This activity is an effort by WNMU to help improve the effectiveness of instruction and alleviate the teacher shortage in New Mexico and to strengthen its bid for a five-year re-accreditation by NCATE, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The coursework offered electronically will be offered between among and beyond the four network learning centers in Silver City, Deming, Gallup and Truth or consequences.

This request for funding was approved by the Board of Regents of WNMU and submitted to the CHE as its first priority. However, the CHE did not recommend this or any other teaching expansion proposal recommending instead the establishment of the Program development and Enhancement fund with an initial funding level of \$3.0 million and available for urgent workforce development in teacher training (\$1.4 million) and nursing (\$1.6 million).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$988.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

The budget submitted for this program shows projected expenditures as follows:

Salaries	\$542,000
Fringe Benefits	\$146,000
Supplies	\$ 50,000
Travel	\$ 50,000
Equipment	<u>\$200,000</u>
TOTAL	\$988,000

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The CHE suggests the following language for all new recurring higher education programs and expansion of current programs (assuming that funding will continue beyond 2002-2003):

“The institution receiving the appropriation in this bill submit a program evaluation to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on higher Education by August 2005 detailing the benefits to the State of New Mexico from having implemented this program over a three period.”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How would this approach help improve the quality of teaching in New Mexico schools?
2. Has any kind of study concerning student and teacher interest in the program been done?