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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Altamirano DATE TYPED 2/4/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE WNMU School of Education SB 346

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
\$641.6				Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for Western New Mexico University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB302

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

No Response Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 346 – Making an Appropriation to Western New Mexico University for the School of Education – appropriates \$641,600 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University for expenditure in FYs 05 and 06 to maintain the network for web-based teacher licensure. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED indicates the bill would provide Western New Mexico University (WNMU) with the financial support to maintain its statewide online and distance education teacher preparation courses. WNMU offers undergraduate and alternative teacher preparation courses leading to licensure in

elementary, secondary, special education and career and technology teacher education. WNMU also offers graduate-level education courses. The existing program provides access and availability to undergraduate and graduate students who are unable to travel to WNMU's main campus in Silver City, or to its Graduate Studies Center in Gallup.

PED additionally notes that the WNMU School of Education is particularly committed to expanding online access to students in rural areas, as well as to the Navajo Nation Teacher Education Consortium, which continues its efforts to increase the number of Navajo teachers in secondary education.

While this program was approved by the NMSU Board of Regents for consideration by CHE, it was not included in the CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED suggests that the bill serves to support the Public School Support Quality Performance Measure to *increase the percent of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in all schools across the state*. Further, that it also supports the New Mexico Accountability Plan for the federal *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001*, which requires that 100 percent of core academic subjects are instructed by highly qualified teachers by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$641,600 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

WNMU would retain oversight of the program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for Western New Mexico University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB302 in that HB302 appropriates \$641,000 – as opposed to \$641,600 in SB346 – from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University to maintain the network for web-based teacher licensure. Further, HB302 restricts expenditures to FY06, while this bill authorizes expenditure in FYs 05 and 06.

BFW/yr