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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/06

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 216

SHORT TITLE UNM Office of State Medical Investigator SB _____

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$513.2	Recurring	General Fund
	\$146.8	Non-recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

UNM Health Sciences Center (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 216, sponsored by Representative Picraux on behalf of the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, appropriates \$660,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to provide funding for the Office of the State Medical Investigator (OMI).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to information provided by the UNM Health Sciences Center, the requested appropriation of \$660,000 contained in this bill consists of recurring expenditures of \$513,200 to support three additional FTE positions and \$146.8 for non-recurring equipment needs. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund. These funds would augment the operational funding contained in the General Appropriation Act for the OMI. The fiscal year 2006 appropriation for this department was approximately \$3.37 million.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal was endorsed by the UNM Board of Regents as priority #9 of 13 expansion projects submitted to the Higher Education Department (HED). It was not included in the HED recommendation to the LFC or the Executive.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The UNM Health Sciences Center reports that the forensic examination caseload at the Office of the Medical Investigator has increased by approximately 22 percent over the past five years. At the same time, due to law enforcement compliance and litigation, the amount of time required for each examination has increased by 40 percent. The national standard for autopsy caseload is 250 autopsies per pathologist annually. The New Mexico OMI pathologists have been averaging close to 500 autopsies per year. The funding proposed in this legislation would enable OMI to hire three additional personnel to better handle the caseload.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No significant administrative impact is evident.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to the annual appropriation to UNM in the General Appropriation Act for the recurring operations of the Office of the Medical Investigator.

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