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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/06
 LAST UPDATED 1/26/06 HB 217

SPONSOR Picraux

SHORT TITLE Geriatric Disorder Telemedicine Program SB _____

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$460.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 89
 Relates to Senate Bill 126 and House Bill 157
 Relates to Appropriation in House Bill 2

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 UNM Health Sciences Center

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 217, sponsored by Representative Picraux on behalf of the interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, appropriates \$460,000 from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents. These funds are to be used by the UNM Center on Aging to develop a network of community health centers in rural and small urban communities to utilize an existing program of interactive telemedicine for assessment, diagnosis and treatment of geriatric disorders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$460,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal was not included on the priority list for expansion of special programs submitted by the UNM Board of Regents to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. Consequently, this request was not included in HED's funding recommendation for FY07.

Information provided through UNMHSC indicates that the appropriation would be used to develop and support geriatric service sites at five or six community health centers around the state. These sites would be linked via the ECHO Telehealth System to the UNM Center on Aging for consultation on difficult health and dementia problems.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The UNM Health Sciences Center would be responsible for administering the funded appropriated via this legislation. No significant additional administrative impact is evident.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 89 and House Bill 217 are duplicate measures.

This bill is generally related to Senate Bill 126 and House Bill 157. These are duplicate bills that establish a southern New Mexico Center on Aging at New Mexico State University.

This bill is related to a recurring line-item appropriation in House Bill 2 for the Telemedicine Program at the UNMHSC.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Department of Health notes that this bill proposes to utilize an existing program of interactive telemedicine (UNM's "ECHO Telehealth System) for assessment, diagnosis and treatment of geriatric disorders. Community health centers in rural and remote areas of New Mexico are often isolated from state-of-the-art medical diagnosis and consultation regarding many health issues. Telemedicine provides the opportunity to improve health care in rural areas of the state through the use of video conferencing equipment. Telemedicine is currently being incorporated into the management of hepatitis C in selected clinics around the state.

DE/yr