

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Vaughn ORIGINAL DATE 2-8-2006  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 684  
SHORT TITLE NMSU-Alamogordo Film Development Promotion SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Dearing

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$25.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD)

New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 684 appropriates \$25,000 from the general fund to New Mexico State University Board of Regents for in fiscal year 2007 to promote film development and production at the Alamogordo branch of NMSU

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$25,000 contained in this bill is a non-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.

HB684 was not included in the 2006 legislative priorities from NMSU-A to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED). This project was not on the list of NMHED's funding recommendations.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMSU-A is requesting \$25,000 to support efforts in promoting film development and production. NMSU-A has conducted, for the past two years, the Desert Light Film Festival. This is an educational and training activity that attracts middle and high school filmmakers from throughout New Mexico. NMSU-A also sponsors the White Sands Film Festival. This festival is attracting high quality professional films from throughout the nation and world. These funds would allow NMSU-A to promote and expand these programs in support of Governor Richardson's initiatives to increase New Mexico's visibility and participation in the film industry.

One of the four state sponsored Film Technicians Training Programs (FTTP) is hosted at nearby Eastern New Mexico State University (ENMSU) in Roswell. It may be advisable for NMSU-Alamogordo to seek to implement a specific niche of the film industry to concentrate their film development and production programming, apart from the standard below-the-line crafts that are emphasized in the FTTP, if this funding is approved. It should be noted that part of the movie, "Astronaut Farmer", starring Billy Bob Thornton and Virginia Madsen was recently shot in Alamogordo.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Passage of this Bill will contribute to an increase in the number of students introduced to the film industry and careers in film related areas. In addition, it will increase the visibility of film in New Mexico to a broad and world-wide audience. Though a nominal request, these funds could clearly contribute to significant gains for the institution and the State in the field of film.

The film and media industry in New Mexico is burgeoning. In order to meet this demand, NMSU-A envisions the Digital and Creative Arts program to be modeled after the Film Technicians' Training Program (FTTP) to train students. The FTTP provides hands-on, academic training to New Mexico residents interested in entering the film industry.

The FTTP is a mobile statewide program which is currently offered at four state colleges throughout New Mexico with plans to expand. In this type of program, after an introduction to the film industry, students choose a specific craft and work on actual short-form productions (public service announcements, commercials, etc.). The final semester is spent working on larger projects such as short films and independent films under the supervision of experienced crew members.

NMSU-A operates a digital and creative arts degree program. The goal is to train students to be active participants in the film and media workforce. In addition, students are encouraged to pursue further studies beyond the A.A. degree.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMSU-A also aspires to be a feeder program to NMSU's Creative Media Program. Currently, there are approximately 60 students enrolled throughout branch campuses in the Associate Degree in Creative Media. NMSU's main campus anticipates a continuous enrollment of 30-50 students a year. Students will be prepared for careers in entertainment, medicine, science, forensics, education, government, modeling and simulations, museums, theme parks, conventions, information, television, and film.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

As part of The Executive’s vision for filmmaking in New Mexico, a goal of this new degree program is to educate the next generation of filmmakers who will be pivotal in developing a sustainable film and digital media industry in the state.

New Mexico film crews are growing steadily. More New Mexicans than ever before are employed by the state’s growing film industry. Current data provided states that approximately 800 New Mexicans are employed in film industry. In two years, production has grown from \$8 million in economic impact, to over \$200 million, and continues to grow. New Mexico is now recognized throughout the nation and the world as the leader in innovative, aggressive approaches to growing film and television production.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Not enacting HB684 would limit opportunity for New Mexico students to be employed in the growing film and media employment sector. NMSU-A students who wish to pursue film and media studies may have to look to other employment opportunities outside of the film and media industries.

PD/nt