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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/06

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 722

SHORT TITLE NMHU Bilingual Spanish Class Expansion SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Earp

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 281, SB 178 and SB 364  
 Relates to Appropriations in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
 Higher Education Department (HSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 722 appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for the addition of new faculty in the university's Spanish language initiative to expand bilingual programming in general education, business, education and social work classes.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200,000 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 not revert to the general fund. These funds would augment the "Instruction & General" appropriation to NMHU, as well as a line-item for the Spanish program in the General Appropriation Act.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

A proposal for \$62,000 for the Spanish program was included in the list of requests submitted by NMHU to the Higher Education Department (NMHED) in addition to \$288,000 considered part of the recurring base funding for a total request of \$350,000. The requested expansion was not included in the HED recommendations for fiscal year 2007.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMHU currently administers this program and no additional impact is anticipated if this bill is enacted.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

This bill is related to HB 281 for a Spanish immersion program, SB178 for a language and culture pilot project and SB 364 for bilingual education materials.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

HED reports that NMHU is seeking to become the country's premier Hispanic serving institution. The Spanish language permeates the campus as part of a vision to preserve the language. HB722 proposes to hire new faculty members to expand bilingual programming in pre-service and professional education. Teacher education programs have been inundated with professionals seeking to advance in the three-tier licensing system. The content areas most affected are reading, bilingual education, and English as a second language because bilingual teachers are in short supply. NMHU offers endorsement courses in education that count toward graduate credit for advanced degrees.

HED is committed to the adequate and equitable support of necessary instructional, student services, and academic support initiatives for all students in New Mexico. Activities to be funded in this proposal are currently recommended for funding through the Instruction and General (I&G) higher education funding formula within the General Appropriation Act. Funding of this program without consideration of similar needs at all institutions could weaken the equitability and thus the integrity of the established I&G formula funding process. Over time, the I&G formula will fund the requested faculty positions.

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