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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/01/2006

SPONSOR Hall LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 793

SHORT TITLE Nursing Education System Improvements SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$250,000	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act  
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Board of Nursing (BN)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 793 appropriates \$250 thousand from General Fund to the Board of Nursing for contracting with a consultant with expertise in nursing education to analyze existing nursing programs in order to develop standardized admission and general education requirements; develop plans to implement career advancement, expand nursing education to rural and tribal areas and recommend improvements in the nursing education system in New Mexico.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand 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.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Board of Nursing indicates that it has been working diligently on Strategic Planning initiatives for nursing in New Mexico in order to address issues of nursing shortage and competent practice. One of the statutory charges of the Board of Nursing is to regulate programs of nursing and to facilitate continued improvement of established nursing education programs (16.2.3 NMAC).

The board points out that pre-nursing and current nursing students find it difficult, if not impossible, to transfer between New Mexico nursing programs due to the differences in pre-requisite course requirements, admission criteria, and general education requirements.

The Board of Nursing recognizes the need to overhaul the nursing education system in New Mexico in order to address these issues, and recommends the following for ALL pre-licensure nursing programs regulated by the Board of Nursing:

- Initiate a comprehensive analysis of all current nursing programs in the state
- Develop standardized admission and general education requirements
- Develop plan to implement baccalaureate education in all associate degree level nursing programs
- Integrate plans to include rural and tribal areas

In the Board's strategic analysis of current and future issues related to nursing education systems, it has been determined that a nationally/internationally recognized consultant in the field of nursing education would best be utilized in order to independently review the current state of operations for nursing education in New Mexico and bring back concrete recommendations addressing issues specific to nursing education in New Mexico.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The board of nursing indicates that there continues to be significant numbers of qualified applicants that are waiting for admission in to nursing programs or have been denied admission upon transfer to another nursing program because they have not met the criteria for that particular program. Developing standardized criteria for admission and general education courses can allow programs to admit applicants who otherwise may not meet the specific requirements that a particular nursing education program currently requires. The board feels that there may be other issues that an independent consultant can identify that would be difficult for those already involved in current NM nursing education processes to assess.

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

The board indicates that without a thorough, professional analysis of the current nursing education system in NM, there will continue to be longer waiting lists for admissions and there will continue to be a system that continues to have vast differences in admission and general education requirements that does not allow applicants to enter programs that do not recognize each other's requirements.