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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/06

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Intercollegiate Equestrian Program SB 127

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$370.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates House Bill 50

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 127 appropriates \$370,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to expand the intercollegiate athletics department equestrian program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$370,000 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.

The sum of \$280,300 was appropriated for this purpose in Chapter 34, Laws of 2005 (Senate Bill 190.) The Legislative Finance Committee recommendation for fiscal year 2007 has included this

amount as a component of a block-grant appropriation to NMSU for special project expansion. The Executive recommendation does not include continued funding for this program. Therefore, approval of the appropriation in this bill would result in the augmentation of the funding contained in the General Appropriation Act if the LFC recommendation is adopted, but the appropriation in this bill would constitute the total amount of funding if the Executive recommendation is adopted.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU submitted this request to the Higher Education Department (HED) as priority 9 of 9 special project expansion items. However, HED did not include this item in its fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the LFC and the Executive.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU currently administers the program. No additional impact would result from enactment of this legislation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMSU reports that new membership criterion established by the NCAA require that for an institution to be designated a Division 1-A program, the highest level of competition in the NCAA, it must sponsor a minimum of sixteen (16) sports. NMSU has added women's equestrian as its' sixteenth sport to meet the newly established sports sponsorship criterion for Division 1-A membership classification in the NCAA. NMSU has completed a 5,200 square foot equestrian center, providing NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics a horse teaching center and equestrian arena. The equestrian team at NMSU competes for the national championship every year, and the arena serves as a place for other agricultural competitions.

DE/yr