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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/06

SPONSOR Rodriguez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE High School Mock Trial Program SB 293

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 293 appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the School of Law to conduct the New Mexico High School Mock Trial Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 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

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), mock trial is an innovative, hands-on experience in the law for high school students of all ages and abilities. Every year hundreds of New Mexico teenagers and their teacher advisors and attorney coaches spend the better part of the school year researching, studying and preparing a hypothetical courtroom trial involving

critical issues that are important and interesting to young people. In February, the teams try their cases before judges and panels of jurors in courtrooms in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. In March, the eight finalists meet in Albuquerque to compete for the state championship. The state champion will represent New Mexico at the national championship in May.

HED adds that the Center for Civic Values, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational corporation, partners with UNM to implement program activities throughout the state; provide educational materials to high schools and coordinate the New Mexico high school mock trial programs. UNM serves as a fiscal agent for the Center for Civic Values. The mock trial program impacts over 200 high school students statewide.

According to the Public Education Department (PED), New Mexico has been very involved in this student program over the years and hosted the national competition in 1999.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes that this legislation supports the implementation of the Social Studies Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

ML/mt