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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/4/06
 SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED 2/7/06 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE NMHU Spanish Language Program SB 674/aSEC
 ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$650.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SEC Amendments

The Senate Education Committee amendments add a new appropriation subsection to the bill which appropriates \$600,000 to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to support the accelerated development of a mathematics, science and reading comprehensive improvement program.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 674 appropriates \$50,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to support the Spanish language 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. These funds would augment a line-item appropriation of \$288,000 contained in the General Appropriation Act for this purpose, as well as resources generated through the higher education funding formula.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal (but in the amount of \$62,000) was included among the special program funding requests submitted by New Mexico Highlands University to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. However, this proposal has not been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMHU administers the current line-item funding provided for the Spanish program. No significant additional impact is evident.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

This bill is related to House Bills 281 and 722, as well as Senate Bill 601, all of which appropriate funds to NMHU for expansion of Spanish programs.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED reports that NMHU's strategic plan calls for making NMHU the country's premier Hispanic-serving institution. The Board of Regents at NMHU has enthusiastically embraced this initiative. NMHU is requesting five new faculty members to begin implementing some new programmatic directions, including two faculty members in the Spanish program to expand educational offerings in various disciplines targeted for bilingual students.

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