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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava ORIGINAL DATE 02/10/2007 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Research & Engineering Resources Connection SB 852
ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$150.0	Non-Rec	General Fund

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (HED)
Department of Public Education (PED)
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 852 appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to pay for a study of ways to connect research and engineering resources.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED points out that research labs in New Mexico are developing sensors and sensor networks that are vital to improvements in national security.

At the current time there are apparently no procedures or sites for the initial real world field testing of these sensors and sensor networks outside of the laboratories.

PED indicates that this appropriation would fund a feasibility study and initial piloting of field testing sites and procedures for real world testing of sensors and sensor networks beyond the lab environment. This should lead to successful solicitation of federal funding for expanding the work and for New Mexico to become a leader in this vital area.

UNM seeks to develop a study that would investigate ways to connect research and engineering resources and to create a distributed developmental test bed to connect state and federal government, private research institutions and the states three research universities, two national laboratories, and related technology business enterprises.

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by UNM to HED for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendations for FY08.

GM/nt