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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/08

SPONSOR King LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 253

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe Community College Nursing Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates To HB 185, HB 66, SB 77 and SB 104

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Department of Health (DOH)

New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 253 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Higher Education Department to expand the accelerated nursing program at Santa Fe Community College.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

The HED states that a request in the amount of \$38,500 was submitted by SFCC to NMHED and was included in the department's funding recommendation for FY09 in the amount of \$38,500.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "breach" of the Higher Education Formula. Reasons for this

classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p75.)

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The Santa Fe Community College submitted a proposal in 1984 to the State Board of Nursing for an Associate Degree in Nursing Program. The intent of the program is to provide high quality nursing education at a state-funded community college. Full approval to begin nursing courses was granted in 1986. Santa Fe Community College continues to receive yearly approval.

Accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) is optional for nursing programs. SFCC Department of Nursing Education (DNE) began seeking NLNAC accreditation status in the fall of 1989. Full NLN Accreditation was granted in June 1990.

The DNE prepares nursing students to succeed in becoming professional Registered Nurses. The DNE strives to serve the health care community and the people of New Mexico through its commitment to excellent nursing education and CARING nursing practice. The CARING practice is built upon a philosophy that includes the attributes of Compassion, Competence, Conscience, Commitment, Confidence, Comportment, and Creativity. The CARING processes include the Nursing Process, Critical Thinking, Evidence-Based Practice, Therapeutic Communication, and Teaching/Learning.

Graduates of the SFCC DNE receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS) in Nursing, and are eligible to become licensed as Registered Nurses (RN). Students are prepared to provide safe, comprehensive, collaborative and complex nursing in a variety of clinical settings. They are encouraged to continue their personal life-long learning and can receive advisement and prerequisite course work at SFCC that is transferable to advance their nursing education.

Funds appropriated in response to HB253 will be used for a technical lab support, which will involve the hiring of an on-site individual who can ensure that labs stay up and running. Further, funds will allow SFCC DNE to hire additional nursing faculty, which is required in order to expand the total number of students in the cohort. Lastly, funds will be used for additional equipment such as computerized study aids that help students prepare for their exams.

The DOH notes that HB253 is based on the recommendations of 2 reports: 1) response to Senate Joint Memorial 37 (SJM37) of the 2005 Legislature, which requested a study of the impact of nurse staffing and retention issues on workforce development; and, 2) response to House Memorial (HM) 17 of the 2007 Legislature, which requested recommendations to increase nurse recruitment and retention in New Mexico hospitals. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) predict New Mexico will not be able to fill 57% of its nursing requirements by 2020.

According to the HPC, the SFCC accelerated nursing program, scheduled to begin Summer 2008, is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in another field, who wish to earn an associate's degree in nursing. then apply for licensure in 15 months. This program allows for students with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree to receive credit for past academic work, and to focus education so that an associate's degree in nursing and then application for licensure can be obtained through a 15 month program. SFCC will be the only Northern New Mexico community

college to offer nursing classes during summer semesters, which will alleviate the competition with students at other northern colleges nursing programs, completing clinical practicum's at St. Vincent's Hospital. SFCC accelerated nursing program is similar to the University of New Mexico's Nursing Programs, Second Degree Option and New Mexico State University's Nursing Programs, Roadrunner Program.

**RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 253 is related to House Bill 185, House Bill 66, Senate Bill 104 and Senate Bill 77 which would appropriate additional nursing funding for UNM, NMSU, NMSU-Carlsbad and WNMU.

GH/nt