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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/08

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED _____ HB 573

SHORT TITLE Luna College Softball Program SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$145.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to HB 574

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Luna Community College (LCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 573 appropriates \$145.0 from the general fund to the Higher Education Department to fund a softball program at Luna Community College.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$145.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that a request was submitted by Luna Community College in the amount of \$125,000 to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. The Department's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$50,000.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "does not fit within HED priorities for Higher Education" project.

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, p73.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

LCC states that Luna Community College is implementing the softball program to meet Title IX requirements and provide a program in northern NM for high school players to attend junior college in the state of NM.

According to the HED:

Luna Community College (LCC) began its athletic department in 2006. The softball team at LCC will hold its first game this fall. The team will play 57 games in the spring and 20 games in the fall. Games not played in New Mexico will take place outside of the state in various cities in Arizona, Colorado, and Texas. The majority of the players on the team are from New Mexico. The LCC softball team does not belong to a particular conference, they are considered independent; however they are seeking to find a permanent conference to be a part of. LCC is the only public two-year college with a softball team in the state.

Funds will be used for:

- the coaching staff,
- recruitment,
- umpires,
- equipment (gloves, bats, uniforms, ice packs, tape)
- travel (hotels, buses, meals)
- drug tests,
- field improvements,
- coaching clinics

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 573 is related to HB 574 which appropriates \$100,000 to the Luna Community College baseball program.

GH/bb