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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/10/08

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE High School Science & Math College Prep SB 286

ANALYST Williams

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to SB 31, SB 90, SB 284, SB 285, HB 149

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Luna Community College

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 286 appropriates \$40 thousand from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department for Luna Community College for the purpose of funding a technical preparatory summer program to teach mathematics, science and technology skills to high school students from the following high schools: Robertson, West Las Vegas, Santa Rosa, Springer, Maxwell, Mora and Wagon Mound.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 09 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Luna Community College provides very similar information for this bill as that provided for SB 285, Luna College Youth College program. In 2007, 80 to 90 students participated in the program. Luna Community College intends to increase the number of participants and offer additional courses. The program currently has a reservation list for participation. Luna notes the retention rates is 85 percent to 95 percent with student applying to return for a second or third summer.

While Luna Community College requested funding in the Fall 2007 budget cycle for the Youth College program (see SB 285), funding for the High School Science and Mathematics College Preparation program was not requested. The January 2008 LFC report “Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects” discusses best practices for funding these types of projects.

HED notes “tech prep courses at Luna Community College are not aligned with the local public schools and agreements about dual credit have not been arranged. The program takes place in the summer; dual credit is currently not allowed in the summer.”

PED notes a 2001 College Board report found three factors influence access to and success in college: predisposition to college, access to academic experiences of high quality and postsecondary opportunity. “Programs that provide enrichment experiences or support services can ... help fill the gaps where the system fails.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes in 2006-2007, only 25 percent of the student scored at the proficient or advanced level on the New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment (NMSBA) in both grade 9 and 11. Further, only 2 percent were advanced in grade 9 and only 3 percent in grade 11. Finally, of the 187 students who were reported as going on to college in New Mexico in 2006, 47 percent had to take at least one remedial course.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HED notes “as the Tech Prep program is currently designed, high school students could be faced with taking the same course two times to receive corresponding high school and college credit.”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED indicates the Department “supports a more systematic approach through existing and future mechanisms for early college admission. Further examination of alignment issues between Luna Community College and the local public schools should be addressed.”

ALTERNATIVES

HED notes “some of the courses could be offered on-site at the high schools, saving transportation costs. Proposed dual credit revisions in Senate Bill 31 would create an alternative for funding the Luna Community College Tech Prep summer program.”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What is the relationship of the proposed High School Science and Mathematics College preparatory program in this bill to the Youth College program in Senate Bill 285?
2. How would appropriated funds be budgeted and expended?
3. To what extent are funds available from other sources?
4. How would program outcomes be measured?

AW/mt