

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/11

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED 02/09/11 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Study UNM Students Directly to Dental School SB 133/aSEC

ANALYST Aguilar/Hanika-Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 University of New Mexico – Health Sciences Center (HSC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee Amendment removes the appropriation from the bill. The study will have to be completed within UNM’s existing resources.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 133 appropriates \$5 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study of establishing a program at UNM that will allow students to matriculate directly to dental school for a doctor of dental science or a doctor of dental surgery degree.

SB-133 makes an appropriation.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$5 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2012 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

New Mexico currently has a dental provider shortage when compared to the United States. In 2000, New Mexico had a median number of one dentist to every 3,297 people compared to the federal standard of one dentist to every 1,050 people.

There are currently no doctoral-level dental programs offered at any New Mexico higher education institution. New Mexico's dentist shortage has been partly addressed through the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) Dental program that funds dental students to get educated at a WICHE participating institution, but obligates them to practice in New Mexico. There is a strong demand for the WICHE Dental program from New Mexico students.

HED Financial Aid Division has in the past provided four years of support for up to 10 students with guaranteed admission at a participating WICHE dental school. However due to projected budget shortfalls, HED anticipates funding for only eight slots in FY12. All other students wishing to pursue dentistry must compete within the regular applicant pool; for the 2009-2010 application cycle, 11,632 applicants applied for admission to dental schools in the United States and 4,067 were eventually accepted.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

SB-133 contains no performance measures. The Executive Vice-President of the Health Sciences Center is to present the results of the study to the Interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee by September 1, 2011.

HA/bym