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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/12

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 309

SHORT TITLE Higher Education Public Television Operations SB _____

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$143.4	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates or relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4, J, Higher Education, University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, and Eastern New Mexico University, public television items

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 University of New Mexico KNME (UNM)
 New Mexico State University KRWG (NMSU)
 Eastern New Mexico University KENW (ENMU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 309 appropriates \$143.4 thousand from the general fund to UNM, NMSU, and ENMU for the purpose of improving each institution's public television broadcasting operations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$143.4 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. The appropriation would be allocated as follows: \$47.5 thousand to UNM Station KNME, \$47.5 thousand to NMSU's Station KRWG, and \$48.4 thousand to ENMU's Station KENW. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

Each of these stations has received state general fund appropriations as public service projects,

and has received such appropriations for fiscal year 2012. As part of the HED’s annual review and budget submission on behalf of these public service projects, only ENMU requested an increase in general fund support while the UNM and NMSU did not. The Executive’s fiscal year 2013 appropriation recommended funding each station at fiscal year 2012 general fund levels, including the Education Retirement Board restoration pursuant to Laws of 2011, Ch. 178, Sect. 2, and the House Appropriations and Finance Committee maintained fiscal year 2012 funding in the committee substitute to House Bill 2.

	FY11 General Fund	FY12 General Fund	FY13 LFC Rec.	FY13 Exec. Rec.	FY13 HAFC HB 2
University of New Mexico	\$1,088.4	\$995.1	\$1,030.8	\$1,030.8	\$1,030.8
New Mexico State University	\$1,011.1	\$949.3	\$960.5	\$960.5	\$960.5
Eastern New Mexico University	\$1,034.3	\$968.6	\$982.2	\$982.2	\$982.2
General Fund Public Television Total	\$3,133.8	\$2,913.0	\$2,973.5	\$2,973.5	\$2,973.5

House Bill 309 would increase the appropriation for each university station by more than \$47 thousand, or 4.6 to 5 percent, or nearly the FY11 general fund levels. All of the stations have lost federal funds as state funding has declined over the last three fiscal years; during this time, UNM reports that its state funding declined by \$300 thousand and federal declined \$80 thousand and NMSU reports that it has lost 12 percent of funding for every state dollar lost.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to HED, these three public television stations reach 95 percent of New Mexico’s population. A summary of each station’s efforts appears below.

UNM - KNME offers opportunities for childcare professionals, pre-K teachers and parents to learn how to use on-air, online, and print resources to prepare children for success in school. Programming provides resources and support for educators for in-school, home-school, and pre-school age children. KNME offers training and support to help integrate media and technology into instruction; many resources are being developed around the state’s common core curriculum. KNME offers occasional professional development opportunities around new PBS or KNME television programs, and collaborates with other public television stations.

NMSU - KRWG provides public radio and television services to southern New Mexico and West Texas. Programming includes relevant news, a forum for open discussion, and a celebration of the arts while preserving and conveying human and natural history. The station has partnered with the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce to produce economic development-related forums, has produced a local series called “Field Trip!” highlighting agricultural production in the southwest, and produced “Fronteras” as a means to reach out to the Hispanic and rural community on a weekly basis. Utilizing professional skills and developing technologies to inspire and encourage people of all ages, backgrounds and locations to become thoughtful productive members of a far reaching, vibrant and dynamic society.

ENMU – KNEW provides public telecommunications and radio services to the citizens of Eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The stations deliver programming such as instructional programs for primary and secondary schools, telecollege courses for the colleges and universities in the area, children's programming, as well as the full Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) programs for the general public. KNEW also serves as a training center for college students interested in a career in telecommunications. Students from various disciplines use the Center's

facilities. They receive training in various aspects of the mass media, and in turn, provide a valuable addition to the workforce of the Broadcast Center. Most students work to earn credit and to become proficient in the various skills required of a professional in the mass media. Some of the most qualified students are employed by the Broadcast Center in various operational positions. This prospect for employment becomes a motivational factor for the students, who work hard to learn the skills that will lead to their employment.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

As a public service project, each station lists performance measures and targets required by the HED for consideration during the budget process. The measures would remain under House Bill 209, though the targets may be raised if funding to implement each station's plans should be increased.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Each institution would administer an increased general fund appropriation as an institution has in the past.

DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 309 may duplicate the appropriation to each university station, though at a minimum, the bill would increase the recommended general fund levels for fiscal year 2013 by 4.6 to 5 percent.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without further maintaining the state-funding levels for public television, federal funds will continue to decline.

THT/amm