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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/12

SPONSOR Ingle LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE ENMU Nursing Program SB 227

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4, J Higher Education, Eastern New Mexico University

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 227 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to Eastern New Mexico University bachelor of science in nursing program for student scholarships and instructional and program support.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Of the total \$100 thousand to be appropriated, \$50 thousand is restricted to fund program and instructional support for the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program and \$50 thousand is restricted to fund student scholarships. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

The ENMU nursing program conducted at the main campus has received separate general fund appropriations in prior years: \$38.5 thousand in FY11, \$41.2 thousand in FY10, and \$42 thousand in FY09. The main campus nursing program did not receive special projects funding in

FY12, though the associates degree program in nursing at ENMU-Roswell has received special project funding in FY12 and prior years.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Institute of Medicine recommends that, by 2020, more than 80 percent of practicing nurses should hold bachelors degrees. A better-educated nursing workforce improves access to health care and the quality of health care provided. The ENMU BSN program addresses this need by targeting practicing, licensed registered nurses and providing an educational program – completely on-line -- that most working students can complete in three years (6 credits per semester).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

While the ENMU reports on performance measures to comply with the Accountability in Government Act, none of the university's measures focus on nursing education or licensing. If SB 227 is passed, the institution may develop a measure on the effectiveness of the BSN program in developing a better educated nursing profession.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The HED did not comment on the quality or substance of the ENMU program but stated that the BSN program and scholarship funding request was not submitted to the department as part of its annual budget review and consideration of special projects.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Currently, the HED administers student aid programs funded with general fund appropriations. Institutions do not receive special projects or funding for nursing scholarships directly, and the ENMU general fund appropriation would need to be amended to reflect the bill's purpose.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The ENMU BSN program will not receive a specific appropriation.

The BSN program can still apply for the nursing performance enhancement fund performance grant if the HED receives FY13 funding for the grant program. ENMU received \$190.5 thousand in FY12 and \$243.1 thousand in FY11 from the HED grant program.

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