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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

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{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date 2024-01-18

Bill No: SB41

Sponsor: Hemphill, Siah Correa
Short MENTAL HEALTH
Title: INITIATIVES

Agency Name
and Code NMHED
Number: _____

Person Writing Comes, Douglas
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
N/A	\$12,393.2	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

SB41 appropriates twelve million three hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$12,393,200) in non-recurring funds from the General Fund to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) to provide for mental health initiatives at state and tribal higher education institutions (HEIs) statewide. This includes hiring 24 social worker supervisors and 34 case managers across state and tribal HEIs; providing for the training, licensing, supplies, and equipment for these social worker supervisors and case managers; developing and implementing a statewide higher education mental health system; mental health training for resident assistants, faculty, and staff at HEIs; and creating a statewide suicide prevention and training program at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB41 appropriates a total of twelve million three hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$12,393,200) in non-recurring funds from the General Fund to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for all included provisions.

For the hiring of 24 social worker supervisors, one million nine hundred ninety-two thousand dollars (\$1,992,000) is appropriated.

For the hiring of 34 case managers, two million two hundred six thousand dollars (\$2,206,000) is appropriated.

For the supplies and equipment for social worker supervisors and case managers, one hundred forty thousand five hundred dollars (\$140,500) is appropriated.

For the professional development, training, and licensure of the social work supervisors and case managers, fifty-four thousand dollars (\$54,000) is appropriated.

For the development and implementation of a statewide higher education mental health system, four million three hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$4,393,200) is appropriated.

For the regular mental health training for resident assistants, staff, and faculty at higher education institutions (HEIs), one million six hundred six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,606,800) is appropriated.

For the creation of a statewide suicide prevention and training program at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), two million dollars (\$2,000,000) is appropriated.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB41 seeks to address mental health challenges at state and tribal higher education institutions (HEIs) across the State of New Mexico through the hiring of mental health professionals, mental health trainings, a statewide higher education mental health system, and a suicide prevention and training program at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). There is a growing body of literature surrounding rising rates of mental health challenges at HEIs across the country and the impacts mental health challenges can have on students in both their academic and non-academic lives. At present, currently enrolled students can receive some level of mental health services at nearly every HEI across the state. However, type, level, and availability of services vary by HEI. Services may include walk-in services, in-person counseling appointments, video appointments, and crisis hotlines.

Funding as proposed in SB41 presents challenges as it is non-recurring. HEIs would need to support newly hired social work supervisors and case managers going forward in the absence of further appropriations. HEIs would also incur costs to maintain and update trainings for resident assistants, staff, and faculty.

SFCC would need to find a source of ongoing funding for the proposed suicide prevention and training program in the absence of further appropriations.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) would require additional staff to oversee the development and implementation of a statewide higher education mental health

system. This staff would need to have expertise in mental health services as well as knowledge in the higher education sector. Funding for staffing and implementing the statewide system would need to be established after the conclusion of this appropriation.

The allocation of the social worker supervisors and case managers amongst state and tribal HEIs is unclear. In Section 1.A.(1), the bill states that there would be social worker supervisors at "all public post-secondary educational institutions statewide," yet it continues with language implying that these new personnel would not be at every institution statewide, such as only "at the largest community colleges."

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB41 does not outline specific performance measures.

If funded, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) would develop performance measures to assess the impact of the bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) would administer the funds for hiring social worker supervisors and case managers as well as for associated supplies, equipment, and training. This would involve receipt, disbursement, and tracking to state and tribal higher education institutions (HEIs).

NMHED would administer the statewide mental health system.

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) would administer the statewide suicide prevention and training program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

To expand the scope and scale of mental health services at higher education institutions (HEIs) in New Mexico, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) has offered Mental and Behavior Health Initiatives at New Mexico's Higher Education Institutions grants the past two years. These grants help HEIs and partnering nonprofit organizations that assist HEIs in building essential capacity and infrastructure to address mental and behavioral health, promote wellness, and cultivate a campus climate where mental and behavioral health resources are normalized as a critical component of student learning. In the most recent year, these awards scaled from fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) with up to nine hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000) available. Across the two years, 21 grants were issued in total. Through these grants, HEIs were able to implement mental health services for the first time, upscale existing services, and develop culturally responsive services.

NMHED administers the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program that includes mental health professionals. This program offers financial support for loan repayment in exchange for health professionals working in at-need areas throughout New Mexico.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

Higher education institutions (HEIs) seeking to hire social worker supervisors and case managers may seek alternative sources of funding such as federal or private grants.

Continued funding for the New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED) Mental and Behavior Health Initiatives at New Mexico's Higher Education Institutions grants could achieve similar goals.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB41 is not enacted, the twelve million three hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$12,393,200) in non-recurring funds would not be appropriated from the General Fund to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED). Higher education institutions (HEIs) seeking to hire social worker supervisors and case managers on their campuses would need to do so using funds from their existing sources of revenue or seek alternative sources of funding. Additionally, a statewide higher education mental health system would not be developed and implemented, nor would a statewide suicide prevention and training program be created. In their absence, mental health challenges at HEIs may persist or worsen.

AMENDMENTS

N/A