

- (2) is ready to receive the accreditation review team from the appropriate accrediting agency. In the development of the program, northern New Mexico state school shall engage in a partnership with New Mexico highlands university, an educational institution that is sensitive to the socio-cultural conditions of the region and that is prepared to offer collaborative programs to support the critical higher education needs of the students in north central New Mexico.”

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 33 appropriates \$200 thousand to the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico State School (NNMCC) and authorizes the regents to develop, implement and seek accreditation for a baccalaureate degree in teacher education for the Espanola campus.

Significant Issues

The PED reports there are thirteen teacher education programs in New Mexico, and, while a teacher shortage still exists, it is no longer severe. However, a teacher shortage continues in selected areas, such as science, math, special education and bilingual education.

NNMCC has for seven years successfully conducted an alternative teacher education program for persons already holding a bachelor’s degree. Implementing a baccalaureate program will expand opportunities in the region. The PED is responsible for certifying programs leading to teacher licensure and would be involved in approving this program so its graduate can become licensed teachers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY05 shall revert to the general fund.

RELATIONSHIP

SB 163 relates to:

- HB 31, Mid School Science and Math Teacher Training
- HB 95, Math and Science Teacher Development,
- HB 120, “Student” in Teacher Loan for Service Act, and
- SB 182, Mid School Science and Math Teacher Training.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

This proposal is not among the program expansion items submitted to the CHE by the NNMCC Board of Regents. Consequently the Commission did not consider the request.

AMENDMENTS

The following language is suggested for all new recurring higher education programs and expansion of current programs (assuming that funding will continue beyond FY05):

“The institution receiving the appropriation in this bill shall submit a program evaluation to the Legislative Finance Committee, the Public Education Department and the Commission on Higher Education by August 2007 detailing the benefits to the State of New Mexico from having implemented this program over a three period.”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How was the need for this program determined?
2. Does NNMCC currently have staff qualified to provide all or part of the curriculum?
3. Will attempts be made to train teachers for critical areas such as math, science, special education and/bilingual education?

LB/yr:lg:dm