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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/13
 LAST UPDATED 02/04/13 HB 69/aHEC

SPONSOR Stewart

SHORT TITLE UNM Health Center College of Public Health SB _____

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$250.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to University of New Mexico Health Science Center Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 69 requires UNM HSC to collaborate with New Mexico State University (NMSU) in planning for a school of public health.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 69, a bill making an appropriation to the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC), appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the UNM HSC for the purpose of planning for a college of public health.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the UNM HSC, the \$250 thousand appropriation in this bill would assist the institution in planning for a college of public health to serve public health needs. The UNM HSC proposes the appropriation would cover the following expenses:

- faculty and staff to conduct research and analysis, working with agencies, entities, and other institutions in the state;
- administrative expenses, including supplies, travel costs, and outreach to the public.

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY14 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Both the DOH and UNM HSC report the importance of having a coordinated health care programs that provide options for increasing the state's healthcare workforce and improving health outcomes. The DOH states

Public Health is the practice of preventing disease and promoting good health within groups of people from small communities to entire countries. Rather than being a single discipline, public health includes professionals from many fields with the common purpose of protecting the health of a population (American Public Health Association). UNM currently has a Public Health Program within the Department of Family and Community Medicine, which is located in the School of Medicine that offers a Masters of Public Health degree, as well as Certificates of Public Health.

<http://hsc.unm.edu/som/fcm/mph/mphindex.shtml>.

HB69 would support planning a program that expands the offering of degrees and certificates, such as doctorate and undergraduate degrees and promotes interdisciplinary approaches for fostering a well-prepared public health workforce.

The UNM HSC anticipates that, should a feasibility study be conducted, a college of public health “could be expected to graduate a minimum of 100 undergraduate students, 25 masters degree students, and 15 doctoral students annually, when it is fully up and operational.” The state currently graduates fewer than 20 graduate students per year from the accredited public health programs at UNM HSC and New Mexico State University (NMSU).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

While the state currently supports two accredited public health graduate programs at UNM HSC and NMSU, neither has specific performance measures regarding student completion, graduates in the workforce and serving particular populations. A number of state and legislative agencies are working to identify the state's healthcare needs and develop recommendations to meet current and future needs. It is possible a college of public health could help address workforce needs.

ADMINITRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The DOH reported that

The Secretary of the Department of Health hosted a meeting in 2012 that included UNM, NMSU, and DOH staff in response to the passage of HM43 during the 2012 legislative session. The memorial requested the HED to study the feasibility of establishing a school of public health in New Mexico. If HB69 is enacted, feasibility would be an appropriate focus of the planning process by UNM HSC.

In response to HM43, the HED submitted a report to the Interim Legislative Health and Human Services (LHHS) Committee on November 1, 2012. The report summarizes the department's efforts working with former and current leadership at both NMSU and UNM, to review the need for such a school, the health challenges in New Mexico, accreditation issues, institutional assets, and next steps in the review process. While the department did not complete a full study, the secretary "expect[s] to study (a) the location of the school; (b) governance structure for the school; (c) likely program offerings for the school; (d) appropriateness of faculty for this endeavor; and (e) funding issues."

House Bill 69 does not expressly mention or include NMSU in the consideration of a school of public health. This omission appears contrary to the history of HM43 and public statements by UNM leadership made to the LHHS and Legislative Finance Committee during the 2012 interim, that NMSU's programs will be considered as part of the state's efforts to provide a comprehensive and cohesive public health academic and professional program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 69 relates to

- HB239, a bill appropriating general fund revenues for Eastern New Mexico University's (ENMU's) masters of nursing program,
- SB87, a bill appropriating general fund revenues to the UNM Health Workforce Analysis Center,
- SB57, a bill appropriating general fund revenues for UNM Health Center Nursing Enrollment, and
- SB216, a bill appropriating general fund revenues for ENMU's masters of nursing program.

All these bills appropriate general fund revenues to address and expand articulated healthcare workforce needs.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The HED indicated in its November 2012 report to the LHHS that it would continue studying the need for a school of public health and identified specific issues to consider.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

How will a college of public health build upon and unify the state's existing resources to address public health needs?

What are specific outcomes that a college of public health would seek to meet?

If established, what existing and additional state, institutional, and student resources are needed to support a college of public health?