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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/13

SPONSOR Garcia, M.P. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 80

SHORT TITLE UNM Dental Science Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |         | Recurring<br>or Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY13          | FY14    |                              |                  |
|               | \$400.0 | Nonrecurring                 | General Fund     |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

|              | FY13 | FY14 | FY15      | 3 Year<br>Total Cost | Recurring or<br>Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|--------------|------|------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> |      |      | \$1,418.2 | \$1,418.2            | Recurring                    | General<br>Fund  |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 80, appropriates \$400 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center for the purpose of planning for a Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Dental Science (BA/DDS) program.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400 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. This bill follows the UNM HSC's request for \$400 thousand in general fund support for FY14. Neither the Higher Education Department requested nor the Executive and LFC recommended funding this request for FY14.

Importantly, the nonrecurring appropriation will be used to develop an ongoing program that the UNM HSC estimates will require more than \$8 million in recurring general fund revenues between FY15 to FY24.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico faces significant challenges in addressing dental health issues. The DOH Office of Oral Health conducted an informal analysis of 1,164 New Mexico 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and found that 26 percent of these students had active tooth decay. A 2006 New Mexico Oral Health Surveillance Services Report states that in the years 1999-2000, 37 percent of 2,136 3<sup>rd</sup> graders had untreated tooth decay (NMOHSS Annual report – 2006, <http://nmhealth.org/PHD/OOH/data.shtml>). Tooth decay is preventable and access to dental care is an effective strategy to reduce the conditions that cause decay.

During the 2012 interim, the UNM HSC reported to the LFC that

- New Mexico has only 0.6 dentists per 1,000 residents, while the national average is 0.8 dentists per 1,000 people.
- The state ranks in the bottom quartile in number of dentists/1,000 population (904 licensed dentists live in NM; 775 active; 49% are age 54 or older).
- 70 percent of dentists practice within a 4 county area along the Rio Grande corridor, resulting in large gaps in providing dental care.
- 25 of 33 counties are Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).
- 42 percent of the population resides in a dental designated HPSA.

The DOH, UNM HSC, and Legislative Health and Human Services (LHHS) Interim Committee support the effort of UNM HSC to create the BA/DDS program. Modeled on the University's BA/MD program, the BA/DDS program would provide program participants with

- An undergraduate bachelor of arts degree,
- Guaranteed admission to a partner, out-of-state dental school, and
- A graduate dental residency at UNM HSC.

House Bill 80 would provide funding to develop the supplemental dental health curriculum and programming at the undergraduate level, explore contract relationships with out-of-state dental schools for the dental school component, and enhance the existing dental residency program.

## PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Both DOH and UNM HSC anticipate that, by funding a BA/DDS program, the number of dentists practicing in New Mexico would increase. If a diverse student cohort is admitted and complete the program, studies have shown that practioners may locate outside the Rio Grande corridor.

The DOH further notes that HB80 relates to the department's FY12 state Health Improvement Plan to increase the number of primary care clinics providing dental care to all populations and increase the number of Medicaid dental providers.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The DOH reports that

[a]ccess to oral health care for high-risk, uninsured New Mexicans is dependent on the availability of dental providers. Low income and minority individuals are not receiving needed dental treatment services due to the lack of availability of dentists in rural and frontier portions of New Mexico, as well as dentists participating in the New Mexico Medicaid Dental Program. Transportation to distant dental providers is also problematic for these residents.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report [Trends in Oral Health Status—United States, 1988–1994 and 1999–2004](#), states “tooth decay in primary (baby) teeth of children aged 2 to 5 years increased from 24 percent to 28 percent between 1988-1994 and 1999-2004.” In addition, the report indicated that 31 percent of Mexican-American children aged 6 to 11 years had experienced decay in their permanent teeth, compared with 19 percent of non-Hispanic white children. The report also found that three times as many children aged 6-11 (12 percent) from families with incomes below the federal poverty line had untreated tooth decay, compared with children from families with incomes above the poverty line (4 percent). These national statistics are indicative of the problems faced in New Mexico. ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/07newsreleases/oralhealth.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/07newsreleases/oralhealth.htm))

### **ALTERNATIVES**

State officials have routinely discussed ways to address New Mexico's dental needs. Two leading options focus on building a dental school and establishing the BA/DDS program.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Students interested in dentistry will continue to rely on existing interstate-tuition agreements and financial aid programs to gain a dental education, and the state will continue to struggle to meet the dental needs of all New Mexicans, but particularly those in the rural areas.

THT/bm