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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Campos/Roch **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/26/16  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Mesalands College EMT Certificate Program **SB** 185

**ANALYST** Chilton

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$360.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to SB 66.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Higher Education Department (HED)

#### Responses Not Received From

Mesalands Community College (MCC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

This bill, Mesalands College EMT [Emergency Medical Technician] Certificate Program, appropriates \$360 thousand from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department for the purpose of creating an emergency medical technician certificate program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to HED, EMT programs are counted as STEM-H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Health) programs and will have funding formula implications and might impact the institution's Instruction & General (I&G) funding.

The appropriation of \$360 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2017 shall revert to the General Fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The state of New Mexico does not recognize NREMT Certification at the EMT and AEMT levels. EMTs coming from other states are required to successfully complete a 16 hour Transition Course and the NM State Exam to become licensed in the State of New Mexico. There are currently 6 accredited New Mexico EMS programs, in Albuquerque (2), Roswell, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe.

The New Mexico scope of practice for EMT is more extensive than the scope taught under the National EMS Education Standards. If an applicant meets all pre-qualifications, the state will grant a temporary license that is good for 6 months. Within that 6 months after which the individual will need to successfully complete a 16 hour transition course taught by one of the five approved New Mexico-specific EMS training institutions in the state, and then to successfully complete the state exam.

The Mesalands Community College, in Tucumcari, states on its website, [www.mesalands.edu](http://www.mesalands.edu), that it is “currently looking into adding additional short-term programming such as, Medical Assisting and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in the future.”

DOH indicates that accreditation of a new program such as that proposed at Mesalands would be an issue:

Mesalands Community College has the option now to affiliate with the University of New Mexico EMS Academy to begin teaching EMS courses as a satellite program of the EMS Academy. If Mesalands Community College instead elects to become an independent, approved EMS educational program, then they would need to affiliate with an approved New Mexico EMS educational program until they become accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). They would then need to meet the standards set by the New Mexico Joint Organization on Education (JOE) committee. Per Section 24-10B-7(B) NMSA, 1978 the JOE committee reviews and approves applications of organizations seeking to become approved emergency medical services training programs and develops minimum qualifications for instructors of each approved training program. This is significant because even with funding, approval to be an EMS training program is not guaranteed.

HED notes that Quay County is a Health Professional Shortage Area, but that increasing the number of EMTs does not increase the number of primary care providers.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

HED would coordinate the development of performance measures alongside Mesalands Community College. DOH notes the creation of a new program in Tucumcari would be consistent with the NMDOH FY17-19 Strategic Plan. Result 1: Improved health status for New Mexicans, Priority 1.2: Access to an integrated outcome-based health system.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HED notes that the Board of Trustees of MCC would be responsible for administering the funds related to establishing the program.

**RELATED**

Relates to SB 66, which would require DOH to enhance EMT training in behavioral health issues.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Using existing resources at MCC, federal or private grants to develop the program.

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