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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino/Hickey ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/2022
LAST UPDATED 2/1/2022 HB _____
SHORT TITLE Med Students in Underserved Communities SB 171
ANALYST Fischer

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY22	FY23		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 171 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) for a program that prepares medical students to practice in underserved communities. There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund. Although Senate Bill 171 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new program could create an expectation that the program will continue in future fiscal years, therefore this cost is scored as recurring.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM reports that the appropriation in SB171 will allow the School of Medicine to grow its Rural and Urban Underserved Program (RUUP.) Specifically, the appropriation would provide

for temporary student housing in rural communities, faculty and staff time to organize and maintain training experiences, mentoring, seminars/workshops, conferences, and student academic support. UNM Reports that RUUP, which was initially funded by a federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant, serves approximately a third of all medical students. The RUUP's federal grant has expired, and the program is now funded through the UNM School of Medicine.

UNM reports that the RUUP program has shown considerable early promise at steering medical students into primary care residences, all of which are needed in rural and underserved portions of New Mexico. The appropriations in SB171 would sustain the program and allow it to grow another 20 percent.

RUUP is an existing Health Sciences Center program but not an official research and public service project in the state budget bill. If funded, UNM would be required to submit a research and public service project funding request for the Higher Education Department and LFC to consider in each's FY24 comprehensive funding recommendation for higher education.

UNM's Health Sciences Center received \$66.6 million in instruction and general appropriations for FY22 and LFC and the executive both recommend the same level of funding for FY23. According to the Higher Education Department, UNM receives recurring appropriations directed to medical students, including financial aid for medical students and support for residency programs.

MF/al/acv