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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/2023
BILL
SHORT TITLE Study Free Tuition for Certain Programs NUMBER Senate Bill 149
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 149

Senate Bill 149 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Higher Education Department for the purpose of conducting a study to determine the feasibility of providing free tuition to graduate students in psychology, psychiatric nursing, social work, and counseling programs.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health reports:

Since the demands for health care services and providers continues to increase, providing incentives to health care providers who work in rural areas may help stabilize and improve health care services (2020-2022 New Mexico State Health Improvement Plan, page 12). SB149 could encourage more psychologists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, and counselors to stay and practice to provide services in New Mexico.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The LFC recommendation for special appropriations in the 2023 General Appropriation Act includes \$20 million to fund endowments for financial aid for master's level social work students.

CJ/al/ne