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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hamblen LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/2023
BILL
SHORT TITLE Higher Ed Physician Shortage Programs NUMBER Senate Bill 231
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$7,500.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 231

Senate Bill 231 appropriates \$7.5 million from the general fund to the Higher Education Department for the purpose of supporting programs that address physician shortages, including outreach, minority student services, and enhancing and expanding graduate medical education opportunities.

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 \$7.5 million contained in this bill is recurring expense to the general fund. Unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED reports:

There is a well-documented shortage of physicians in New Mexico. An August 2021

report on the Health Care Workforce in New Mexico, presented to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, documented a shortage of 328 primary care physicians, 56 obstetrics and gynecology physicians, 10 general surgeons, 87 dentists, and 6,223 RNs/CNSs, and additional shortages in all other health care professions. The shortages are projected to get worse as current medical professionals start to retire. New Mexico has the highest percentage of physicians 60 years or older in the entire country. In addition to a shortage of new physicians graduating from the two medical schools in New Mexico, the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC) in Albuquerque and Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces. There is a shortage of resident opportunities for doctors and possibly inadequate pay for residents during their residency. The appropriation in SB231 is likely not enough to completely close the gap, it would provide additional funding to support the training of physicians and residencies.

CJ/al/hg/rl