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### FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Wilson	DATE TYPED:	01/28/00	HB	
SHORT TITLE:	Dental Education Career Ladder Program			SB	156
				ANALYST:	Pacheco-Perez

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
	\$ 300.0			Rec	GF

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB162, HB95

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

## **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

This bill appropriates \$300.0 from the general fund for the following: \$100.0 to the Dona Ana branch campus of New Mexico State University for a dental auxiliary education program; \$102.0 to San Juan College (SJC) for a dental auxiliary education program; and \$98.0 to SJC to develop a statewide dental education career ladder program at various community and branch colleges throughout the state.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$300.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY01 shall revert to the general fund.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

This bill relates to House Bills 162 and 95.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

According to the HPC, only five counties have an adequate dental capacity and at least 17 counties have a critical shortage. All counties, except Bernalillo and Los Alamos, have a shortage of dental hygienists. In 1999, the number of hygienists per 100,000 population decreased from 39 to 38.

Dental hygienists improve capacity of dentists. With collaborative practice for dental hygienists enacted in 1999, dental hygienists will be better able to expand access to preventive services, thereby decreasing the future demand for dental services. In New Mexico the only public certified oral health care professional education program offered is a UNM Baccalaureate degree in Dental Hygiene. Nationally, most dental hygienists are trained in associate degree programs.

In the 1998 HPC health professional survey, 87% of dentists rated having access to hygienists and assistants as very important in selecting a practice site. The greatest oral health care professional shortages exists in rural areas. Training rural students in their home communities increases the probability that they will remain in rural areas.

In 1999, a Task Force of dental professionals formed in response to Senate Joint Memorial 21 found that there was a need for dental auxiliaries, most particularly in rural and underserved areas. The Task Force recommended enhanced funding to establish a Dental Career Ladder for dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental auxiliary welfare to work candidates at public universities and community colleges.

In November 1997, the CHE convened an ad hoc task force on dental hygiene education. The task force endorsed a career ladder model for dental education, recommending that the model be developed collaboratively by educators and oral health professionals to involve the full spectrum of postsecondary education, including alternative options for course delivery.

The CHE recommends that the following language be included for all new recurring higher education programs: "The institution receiving the special appropriation in this bill shall submit a program evaluation to the LFC and the CHE by August 1, 2003 detailing the benefits to the State from having this program implemented for a three-year period."

APP/njw