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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Wright DATE TYPED: 01/26/01 HB 54
 SHORT TITLE: NMSU Climatologist SB _____
 ANALYST: Gilbert

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 350.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
 New Mexico Commission for Higher Education (CHE)
 CHE Fund Appropriation Matrix FY02

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 54 appropriates \$350.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the office of the State Climatologist.

Significant Issues

The Office of the State Climatologist assists the state in understanding and responding to natural and man-induced climate processes and their implications, cooperates with the federal government in activities relating to climate studies and advisory services, and promotes and disseminates general knowledge pertaining to climatology. Funding in this bill would allow the additional FTE needed to enhance and maintain 34 weather stations providing weather related data to researchers throughout the state.

All New Mexico higher educational institutions were asked to provide the CHE with an overall priority listing of all new and expansion research and public service project requests. According to the CHE, NMSU provided a categorical priority list with this appropriation included, but the CHE reported that NMSU did not receive approval from their governing board for this funding.

The CHE did not recommend funding for this program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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The \$350.0 appropriation contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY02 shall revert to the general fund.

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