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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nava DATE TYPED: 02/09/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: NMSU Master of Arts Learning SB 37/aSEC
 ANALYST: Gilbert

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 200.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

The Original Bill Duplicates HB141

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Commission for Higher Education (CHE)
 CHE Files - Special Funding Requests Submitted by NMSU

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 37 adds language to clarify that this new program is a master's of education degree with an emphasis in distance education, rather than a master's of distance education degree. The language in this amendment clarifies how the \$200.0 appropriation is to be used:

.....to offer a master's degree in education with an emphasis in learning technologies and endorsement for information technology coordinators through distance education, including faculty expenses and acquisition of course supplies and computer equipment.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 37 appropriates \$200.0 to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to establish a new Master of Arts degree in Education, specializing in distance education technology.

Significant Issues

This proposal would create a new master's level degree program in the College of Education to prepare teachers for integrating new technologies into the teaching process.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT

NMSU submitted the following budget for this program including 3.0 FTE to the CHE.

Salaries (3.0 FTE)	\$120,000
Fringe Benefits	\$23,700
Supplies/Equipment	\$30,000
Travel	\$10,000
Other	<u>\$16,300</u>
TOTAL	\$200,000

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The following is provided for informational purposes only is not intended to assess the merits of this program/project:

The NMSU Board of Regents ranked this project first out of four proposals in their "Instruction and General Programs" category and this proposal was presented to the CHE for consideration via the research and public service project funding process. The CHE, however, did not recommend funding this program.

According to the CHE, this program does not currently exist. 21-1-24 NMSA 1978, states that any graduate program that is to benefit from state funding must be first approved by the CHE and the State Board of Finance. The process for graduate degree program approval is in 5 NMAC 5.2. This program has not yet been presented for review per the regulatory process.

LG/prr