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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Boykin DATE TYPED: 2/18/01 HB 141/aHEC  
 SHORT TITLE: NMSU Master of Arts in Distance Education SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST: Gilbert

### APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 37

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 141 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

House Bill 141 appropriates \$200.0 to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to establish a new Master of Arts degree program 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	\$16,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$200,000</u></b>

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The following is provided for information only. It is not intended as a commentary on the merits of the 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 did not recommend this program for funding.

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/ar