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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Tripp DATE TYPED: 01/31/02 HB 134

SHORT TITLE: NMIMT Center for Water Quality SB _____

ANALYST: Fernandez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$500.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB45 and SB27

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 134 appropriates \$500.0 from the general fund to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the purpose of establishing the New Mexico center for water quality.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This program would be funded as a separate line item outside the higher education funding formula. CHE policy requires each project be subjected to an evaluation process every four years. As such, the CHE recommends the language under "Technical Issues."

RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to HB45 and SB 27 which appropriate funds to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to conduct water management research.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

CHE suggests the following language:

“A plan for a program evaluation, including specific program goals and criteria for assessing program effectiveness, shall be submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education by October 1, 2003. An assessment of the program will be completed prior to June 30, 2004, and submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education.”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

This program was not included in NMIMT’s budget request to the NMIMT Board of Regents, and thus was not submitted by NMIMT to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for review.

The CHE did not recommend funding for this program expansion; however, CHE did recommend funding for a similar project at NMSU that would allow the institution to conduct research and education programs on water issues.

CTF/njw:ar