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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Picraux DATE TYPED: 01/29/02 HB 198

SHORT TITLE: Statewide Magazine On-Line Database Program SB _____

ANALYST: Gonzales

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	200.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act _____

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Office of Cultural Affairs
State Department of Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 198 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Library Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs for the purpose of expanding the statewide magazine on-line electronic database program.

Significant Issues

The appropriation is intended to make available full text periodicals and other reference materials to all public elementary, middle and junior high school libraries in an effort to improve student literacy skills. The bill would expand the statewide magazines online database to 445 public elementary school libraries and 141 middle and junior high school libraries in order to assist the in the improvement of student achievement and literacy skills. Currently, the statewide magazines online database provided by the State Library Division is available free to all public libraries, academic libraries, and high school libraries only. There were approximately one million searches of this database by these libraries in 2001.

According to the State Department of Education, national data indicate that almost half (48%) of fourth graders in New Mexico scored "below basic" in reading compared to 39% of students nationally (NAEP 1998) and research indicates that access to appropriate reading materials at all levels is a necessary circumstance for reading success (National Research Council: *Starting Out Right* 1999).

The State Department of Education notes this legislation supports its Literacy Policy action item "Use of Appropriate Instructional Materials: Curriculum resources and materials must be developmentally appropriate, research-based, and culturally relevant. Technology must be integrated to support learning." A recent survey of school libraries found that 1983 was the average publication date of New Mexico collections in science, social studies and technology (Survey conducted by the New Mexico State Library and the State Department of Education 1999).

New Mexico schools report that 84% of public school classrooms have Internet connectivity capable of accessing on-line resources to support learning (2001 Legislative Survey, State Department of Education).

During the FY03 budget hearing for the Office of Cultural Affairs before the Economic Development and Regulatory Subcommittee of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, the Subcommittee recognized the significant need for this expansion of the database program due to its direct link in supporting education throughout the state.

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 FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Administrative implications would minimally affect one .5 FTE position at the State Library whose job already includes keeping database use statistics from existing participating libraries statewide.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The appropriation should be made to the Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance program of the Office of Cultural Affairs rather than to the Library Division as the agency is appropriated by program rather than by division in the General Appropriation Act.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The bill would augment and enhance the magazines online program that already exists for some NM library types, e.g., public, academic, and high school libraries. The State Library Division would keep monthly statistics about library usage of the product and would even have monthly "hits" statistics available indicating which specific magazines are being used and where.

The Office of Cultural Affairs noted three significant issues in regard to the program included in this legislation:

Issue 1: The relative lack of resources in many elementary and middle school libraries in NM. Literature on the subject is conclusive that greater student achievement and school performance is directly correlated to the quality of school libraries. The proposed database offers over 2,000 full text reference materials, magazines, and journals geared for this student group. This service allows participating libraries freedom from the budgetary burden of buying and processing a print product by utilizing a "just in time" concept instead of a "just in case" collection policy. This bill would extend an electronic database service to elementary, middle and junior high students through their libraries. The program would result in the availability of additional library and literacy resources for students at the middle and elementary school levels, resources they do not have.

Issue 2: Unequal opportunities for library resources in the state. This program would provide equal access for public school libraries regardless of school site. Students in Animas would have the same electronic resources as students in Albuquerque.

Issue 3: Building early information literacy and information access skills. This program in school libraries would complement other statewide efforts to offer the Internet to students, schools, and classrooms. It would foster utilization of the Internet and help develop research skills students will utilize throughout their academic lives and beyond into lifelong learning.

JMG/njw