

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gutierrez **DATE TYPED** 01/25/05 **HB** 177

SHORT TITLE Increase Nursing Education Options **SB** _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$500.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB84

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Health Policy Commission
 Department of Health
 New Mexico State University

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 177, Making An Appropriation To Increase The Nursing Education Options In The State, appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University in FY06 to increase the number of nursing options in the state. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

New Mexico State University (NMSU) indicates the requested funds will increase the number of nursing education options for New Mexico, thus enabling it to better address the statewide nursing shortage. The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) concurs, adding that the fundamental strategy for addressing the shortage is expansion of nursing education programs. NMSU notes the funds will be used to support additional faculty positions, distance education technology for the Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) option and as start up funding for a doctoral nursing education option, detailed as follows:

- The RN to BSN option employs a compressed scheduling format, interactive television, WebCT enhancement, and local clinical liaisons to make baccalaureate level nursing education available for registered nurses in New Mexico. It enables registered nurse students to complete all upper division nursing courses within a twelve month period. Through this process, registered nurses are able to increase their level of education while continuing to work within their home communities. Further, the option serves as a stepping stone for many nurses who desire graduate nursing education and may then serve as nursing faculty in many rural areas of the state.
- The doctoral nursing option will use funds to establish the NMSU portion of the collaborative Ph.D. in Nursing with the College of Nursing, University of New Mexico. The collaborative doctorate builds on the strengths of both institutions and limits duplication while providing future nursing faculty with a broad spectrum of doctoral emphasis areas. Once established, it is anticipated that 5-8 nursing doctoral students will be admitted annually to NMSU.

The Health Policy Commission notes that NMSU is the only public university providing basic baccalaureate nursing, RN to BSN, and master level nursing education programs within the southern region of the state. NMSU delineates program attendance as approximately 325 students enrolled in the various nursing programs at any given time. Of this number, a high percentage of undergraduate students (>45%) and graduate students (>25%) are Hispanic, American Indian, and African American.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that HB177 is consistent with the departmental strategic plan in program area nine: Administration; Strategic Direction: Achieve excellence and accountability in administration and service. *Objective 3*: Increase the health workforce supply, in collaboration with other entities in New Mexico.

NMSU indicates the need for additional nurses as well as more highly educated nurses is particularly critical in the State's rural areas. Further, that this program builds upon federal start up funding that clearly demonstrated the feasibility of the RN to BSN option.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU notes that tenure and tenure track faculty lines within the Department of Nursing, College of Health & Social Services will need to be permanently increased to sustain increased enrollments and outreach efforts with community colleges.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicates SB84.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

This program was included in the NMSU FY05-06 higher education funding request to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) as follows:

- Nursing Expansion (Doctoral Expansion) - \$125,000
- Nursing BSN to MSN - \$375,000

However, this program was not included in the CHE FY05-06 funding recommendations.

BFW/lg