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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stell DATE TYPED 2/2/05 HB 225

SHORT TITLE Food & Agriculture Policy Council SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$150.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act. Duplicates SB429

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 225 – Making an Appropriation to New Mexico Department of Agriculture for the Food and Agriculture Policy Council – appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture for expenditure in FY06 to fund the activities of the Food and Agriculture Policy Council. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

NMDA indicates that the Food and Agriculture Policy Council is comprised of representatives from the agricultural industry, state, local, and tribal government officials, and the general public. The council focuses on key food and agricultural policy issues, addresses top policy issues, and attempts to strengthen advocacy among agencies, organizations, individuals and communities for New Mexico food and agriculture. It also serves as an important forum for agricultural groups and interested parties, including, among others, representatives from the New Mexico

Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Dairy Association, and the Cooperative Extension Service. The council has been active in New Mexico for approximately two years and is currently funded by grants from a variety of sources.

CHE notes that this request was not in the list of priority projects submitted by NMSU to CHE for review. Accordingly, the request was not included in the commission's funding recommendation for FY06.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Even Though this appropriation is considered a recurring expense to the general fund both NMDA and CHE suggest that this is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Further, any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This program would be administered by NMDA, with no additional administrative burden projected. Funds would be disbursed to the Food and Agriculture Policy Council on a "pass through" basis, as memorialized by memorandum of understanding.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.
Duplicates SB429

BFW/yr