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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cordova DATE TYPED 02/20/05 HB 683

SHORT TITLE Valencia County Nurse Assistant Training SB _____

ANALYST Williams

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 various nursing program bills

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LFC Files
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Health Policy Commission (HPC)
- Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 683 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico for the Valencia campus as follows:

- \$100 thousand for tutors and staff to establish learning communities
- \$50 thousand for select students to enroll in certified nurse assistant training and computer graphics and animation training (specifically for tuition and fee assistance, transportation and other needs)

Significant Issues

The Health Policy Commission (HPC) reports the New Mexico Department of Labor “estimates the need for an additional 4360 nursing aides between now and 2012. This is an increase of 36% over the current workforce of 11,990.

Valencia County has a need for more nursing personnel now and will likely see the need continue in the future. In 2002, Valencia County had a rate of 5.17 registered nurses per 1000 population compared to the state rate of 7.25 and the national rate of 7.98. The LPN rate was 1.56 compared to a state rate of 1.49 and national rate of 2.49. (*Selected Health Professionals GADS 2003 Report-NMHPC*).

Nursing assistants are often the first step toward eventual progression to a registered nurse degree and licensure which would help with the shortage.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes the bill is consistent with its Strategic Plan:

- Program Area 1: Prevention and Disease Control, Strategic Direction: Improve the Health of New Mexicans, *Objective 6*: Prevent and control chronic disease;
- Program Area 2: Health Care Delivery, Strategic Direction: Improve access to health services, *Objective 2*: Improve access to health services at agency-funded school-based health centers and
- Program Area 6: Los Lunas Community Program and Residential Care Facilities, Strategic Direction: Promote a continuum of high quality community based long-term care options for eligible persons.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 would revert to the general fund.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The project request was not submitted to the CHE as a priority project through the annual funding request cycle.

The HPC notes: “Nursing assistants perform basic nursing functions and procedures involving patient care. They work under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician. In general, nursing assistants tend to matters related to personal hygiene, safety, and nutrition.

The scope of their responsibilities, however, varies considerably, depending on the type of organization in which they are employed. In nursing homes, for example, nursing assistants tend to be the principal caregivers and may have much greater responsibility than they might have in a hospital or home clinical setting.

The competency evaluation for certification requires a fee and may be taken after a student completes the instructional program and supervised practical training in a laboratory and clinical setting. Nurse aides currently employed or seeking employment in most classifications of care facilities located in New Mexico, and who have successfully completed a nurse aide training, must receive a satisfactory competency certification from the program. New Mexico offers Certified Nursing Assistant testing through a program called Nursing Assistant Competency Evaluation Service.

Also, nursing assistants have to be placed on the Division of Health Improvement's nurse aide registry after undergoing background screening.”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Are the programs consistent with the institution's strategic plan and mission?
2. How would program success be measured?

ANA/yr