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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stapleton DATE TYPED 03-01-05 HB 795/aHEC

SHORT TITLE UNM Distance-Learning Math-Science Curriculum SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$100.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

No Response Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

House Education Committee Amendment to HB795 adds the following language to the legislation:

- *On page 1, line 20*, after “a” the phrase “middle and high school” is inserted.
- *On page 1, line 21*, after “curriculum” the phrase “that provides individualized assignments and immediate feedback to each student through use of the cyber-quest web-based learning program and the robotic teacher software” is inserted.

House Education Committee Amendment to HB795 adds no additional appropriation to the legislation.

Original Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 795 – Making an Appropriation to the University of New Mexico’s Charlie Morrissey Research Hall to Provide Distance-Learning, Web-Based Math-Science Academic Curriculum – appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the Charlie Morrissey Research Hall for expenditure in FY06 to provide a distance-learning, web-based math-science academic curriculum. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED indicates that distance-learning web-based curriculum gives rural communities access to high-quality course and enhanced curriculum. It also gives flexibility to non-traditional students, whether they need accommodations, are homebound for medical or behavioral issues or are in danger of dropping out.

PED adds that the web-based learning lab, which would be open to community access, would have 25 stations and be housed in the performing arts center at the state fair grounds. Further, that the curriculum – whether it is available for purchase or developed for this lab – should be aligned to the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards and be research-based.

This project is not included in CHE’s *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 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

The University of New Mexico would retain oversight of this initiative.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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

BFW/yr