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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Beffort DATE TYPED 01/26/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Interactive Dental Distance Education Program SB 131

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$45.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

Relates to SB3

Duplicates HB107

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Health (DOH)

New Mexico Association of Community Colleges (NMACC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 131 – Making an Appropriation for an Interactive Distance Education Program to Teach Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Statewide – would appropriate \$45,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) in fiscal year 2006 to contract with a statewide association of community colleges to develop and implement an interactive distance education program to teach dental hygiene and dental assisting statewide. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 would revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

DOH notes that New Mexico is currently experiencing a shortage of oral health professionals. Further, that the Governor’s Oral Health Council recently submitted its workforce development

findings to the governor wherein it recommended an increase in funding for the distance learning education program. Additionally, DOH indicates that members of New Mexico's congressional delegation have secured a 2004 federal appropriation of \$250,000 to develop and implement an interactive distance education program for dental hygienists and dental assistants.

NMACC suggests that New Mexico ranks near the bottom of the fifty states in dental hygienists per capita population, and the New Mexico Health Policy Commission estimates New Mexico needs 228 new hygienists to meet the national guidelines of 1 hygienist to 2000 population. There are currently two hygienist programs in the state – one at San Juan College, the other at the University of New Mexico – and together they produce about 30-40 graduates per year.

NMACC additionally indicates the funds appropriated in this bill will be used to match federal funds earmarked for the development and implementation of an interactive distance dental education program. One way of doing this is to utilize existing programs and perhaps one or two new programs to serve more rural communities on an as needed basis through an interactive distance education network. These funds will be used to match earmarked federal funds for this purpose to develop and implement this interactive distance education program.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH observes that the appropriation proposed in SB131 is consistent with the department's strategic plan: Program Area 9, 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.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$45,000 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

DOH notes that although SB131 would increase workload in the areas of procurement, contracting and program monitoring, it could be administered with current staff.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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

Relates to SB3

Duplicates HB107

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Expertise in the area of interactive education protocols will need to be developed.

BFW/yr