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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Altamirano DATE TYPED 02-04-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE WNMU Recurring Athletic Program Needs SB 345

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
\$1,647.5				Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 345 – Making an Appropriation to Western New Mexico University for Recurring Athletic Program Needs – appropriates \$1,647,500 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico university for expenditure in FYs 05 and 06 to fund athletics at both school and conference levels and to address gender equity requirements. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

Drawn from information in the university funding request to CHE, the Western New Mexico University (WNMU) Board of Governors indicates this bill will allow WNMU to address National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) requirements currently unmet by WNMU, as well as enable the university to enhance current athletics programs.

WNMU requires the addition of one additional sport in 2005-2006 so as to be able to meet current NCAA Division II requirements and retain full NCAA membership status and qualification for NCAA financial disbursements. WNMU is presently considering the addition of women's soccer as the new sport. Not only will this satisfy NCAA requirements, but it will also afford an additional athletic option to female students.

The WNMU Board of Governors further indicates that travel costs for WNMU's current sports obligations are extremely expensive due to WNMU's geographical location and conference affiliation. All WNMU coaches currently drive buses to transport their teams and, at times, have driven in excess of 24 hours to compete due to the fact there are insufficient funds to charter a bus, or fly to the event.

While this program was approved by the WNMU Board of Regents for consideration by CHE, it was not included in the CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,647,500 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

WNMU would retain oversight of the program and would utilize the funds to hire a head coach, an assistant head coach, a fulltime compliance professional, and to provide scholarships, equipment and travel funds for both the new sport, as well as existing sports.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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

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