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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos DATE TYPED 02-25-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Bilingual Education & History SB 827

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$512.3			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico Highlands University 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 Bill

Senate Bill 827 – Making an Appropriation to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for Bilingual Education and New Mexico History Materials – appropriates \$512,330 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for expenditure in FY06 and subsequent fiscal years to prepare, compile and distribute bilingual education materials, including a book on New Mexico history, for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED suggests that there are a number of related factors associated with this legislation:

- HB212 (approved by the 2003 Legislature) requires “students in Grades 1 through 8 to be instructed in a second language (other than English)” so that they may become proficient in more than one language;
- since 1973, New Mexico’s *Bilingual Multicultural Education Act* has provided financial support for programs that allow students to become proficient in two languages – English and a second language –and to succeed academically. In FY 2004-2005, the state’s Bilingual Multicultural Education program served 57,965 students;
- the predominant second language in state bilingual education programs is Spanish (Source: New Mexico Bilingual & Multicultural Education Bureau, 2005). The Spanish language is the second most commonly spoken language in the United States, and it is second in the world as a language of business (Source: Government of Spain. *Use of Spanish Language*, c2000);
- for the 2004-2005 academic school year, 174,165 students (53.3centof all students) attending New Mexico public schools are of Hispanic descent (Source: *ADS 40th Day Report*, c2004);
- currently, students in Bilingual Multicultural Education programs need more instructional materials in the Spanish language in many subject areas, including New Mexico history and culture; and
- to date, there is one history of New Mexico published in Spanish (c2005) that is targeted for readers in Grades 6-12. No other titles on New Mexico history are available in Spanish in New Mexico public schools, nor have such titles been recommended to PED’s Bilingual and Multicultural Education Bureau.

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

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$512,330 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. These funds are expenditure in FY06 and subsequent fiscal years, and any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico Highlands University would retain oversight of this initiative.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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

BFW/lg