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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/06

SPONSOR Jennings LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Expand UNM Dental Residency Program SB 264

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
250.0		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to HB172 (Develop Dental Hygiene Programs)
 Related to SB 83 (Dental Hygiene Programs)
 Related to SB 85 (Expand NM Pre-Dental Clubs)
 Related to SB 180 (Increase Dental Education Slots)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 264, with emergency clause, appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for expenditure in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to expand a dental residency program to sites outside Bernalillo County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

As of 2/7/06 the SFC substitute for SB 415 includes \$100,000 to increase the dental residency program at UNM.

According to the Higher Education Department, anticipated future costs for the program expansion are \$500,000 to \$600,000. Some revenues would be general by clinical activities and the Graduation Medical Education (GME) fund allocated through the Medicare/Medicaid programs. ENMU-Roswell requested \$126,500 for the program expansion through HED's Research, Public Service, and Special Programs Request. The program is not recommended by HED for expansion at this time.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Health Policy Commission (HPC), this expansion of the UNM's General Dentistry Residency Program was recommended and endorsed by the Governor's Oral Health Council and is based in part on recommendations of the 2003 Dental Education Summit report.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), New Mexico ranks 49th among states in the number of dentists per 1,000 people; and nearly 1/3 of the 1,074 dentists licensed in New Mexico have out-of-state addresses or are over the age of 65. In addition, there is a concentration of dentists and dental hygienists in Bernalillo County and a shortage of dentists and dental hygienists in rural areas. Thirty-three of New Mexico's counties are designated as Federal Health Professions Shortage areas.

HED notes that, for the last two years, the Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell (ENMU-Roswell) Division of Health and the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center Administration and Dental Hygiene Program have worked to develop a distance education program to create a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene in Roswell. There is currently a shortage of dental hygienists in southeastern New Mexico; and in the near future there will also be a shortage of dentists. At least five Roswell dentists plan to retire within the next five years.

According to the HED, this bill's expansion of the Dental Residency Program will build upon the existing relationship between ENMU-Roswell and UNM. The collaboration extends beyond the two institutions to include the State of New Mexico Department of Health Rehabilitation Center as well as local dentists and organizations. The residency program expansion would be a 1 plus 2 program. Students would take their first year of study at UNM and then transfer to Roswell. It is anticipated that of the five residents currently in the program, two to three would continue for a second year in Roswell.

HED adds that UNM's Division of Dental Services, created in 1999, offers a post-doctorate in Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency. This program is partially funded by a three-year federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant and provides a concentrated experience for dentists beyond classes to practice public health dentistry and work with rural, underserved populations. The program has resulted in attracting five general dentistry residents to New Mexico, four of whom have stayed in the state, three of whom work in non-profit clinics.