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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/2007

SPONSOR Piicraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 576

SHORT TITLE Expand NM Judicial Education Center SB _____

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 576 appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for expenditure in FY 2008 for the expansion of the New Mexico Judicial Education Center (JEC).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008n shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The JEC, officially named the Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center of New Mexico, was established under a federal grant in 1991 to provide education and training to the judges, administrators and other staff of the New Mexico judicial branch. In 1993, the New Mexico Legislature formally established JEC within the Institute of Public Law at the UNM School of

Law, and provided state funding for its operation. Working under the guidance of a broadly representative Judicial Education and Training Advisory Committee (JETA), JEC produces a total of about two dozen educational programs annually, including annual conferences, regional seminars, teleconferences, and special interest seminars.

The HED indicates JEC plans to expand its training to distance education and online training to accommodate outlying areas in the state and smaller courts with personnel who are unable to travel for classroom training. JEC maintains and updates all training material to coincide with new legal developments and new laws.

This request was not submitted by UNM to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review, but is included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08 as a continuance of FY07 recurring funding in the amount of \$163,300 with no additional funding at this time.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The JEC faces increasing demands for services due to an increase in judges and court staff, an increase in need of training of non-attorney judges who come to the bench without formal legal training, and an increase in the need for distance education, outreach, and training of tribal judges. Since 2003, JEC projected revenues have dropped. Revenue projections were based on fee collections in the state. However due to a significant decrease in fee collections JEC has experienced a revenue shortfall. JEC has been operating understaffed due to the decrease in revenue.

BM/nt