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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/2007

SPONSOR Arnold Jones LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1277

SHORT TITLE UNM & NMSU GEOSPATIAL INFO STUDIES SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB359

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1277 appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund to each of the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) and New Mexico State University (NMSU) for a pilot project on Geospatial Information Studies. Total appropriations would total \$1,000,000.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,000,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Geographic (geospatial) Information Systems (GIS) have become indispensable tools for governance, for commerce, and for environmental and social science. GIS includes electronic mapping technology, systems and satellite information processing and geographical positioning

systems. This technology penetrates every aspect of our lives from digital maps in rental and delivery vehicles to the management and maintenance of city infrastructure, regional agriculture and forest lands. The demand for innovative geographic information products, services, data, and know-how is strong and increasing. Consequently, the need for basic and applied research and education in geographic information science has never been greater.

Last year the New Mexico state CIO's office organized a statewide Geospatial Conference to bring together the various state and federal agencies and higher education institutions that deal with geographic information issues to develop a collaborative dialogue. The goal was to identify the needs and make recommendations for GIS technology in the state of New Mexico. The focus of the conference involved how to move the state toward more coordination and less duplication of efforts with the goal of organizing more cost effective data acquisition. One outcome of this summit was the need for greater education in the field.

UNM and NMSU are the leading geospatial information educational institutions in the state. UNM is home to the Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) which was established by NASA in the 1960's. EDAC provides services in geospatial technologies and has been a leader in technical assistance for a wide range of uses since 1964. Their goal is to assist industry, government, and the general public in applications of spatial and spectral technology. NMSU offers specialty programs of study in Systems and Satellite Information Processing and GIS including undergraduate and graduate degrees through the Department of Geography.

HB1277 approaches geospatial development issues from an educational perspective. The appropriations call for:

- \$500,000 each for UNM and NMSU to define and develop core curriculum for geospatial training to serve common needs across academic and research disciplines including:
 - integrate curriculum with individual Colleges of Arts and Science Programs;
 - design and implement a specialized geospatial classroom and laboratory to serve core curriculum needs of different colleges;
 - pilot a geospatial resources internship program for rural and minority youth for basic hands-on experience and exposure to career opportunities;
 - and propose a program for on-line geospatial information training.
- The \$500,000 appropriation is split for specific purposes into the following amounts:
 - \$250,000 (recurring) each for UNM and NMSU for the development and administration of a pilot interdisciplinary training program through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences;
 - \$175,000 (non-recurring) each for UNM and NMSU for the development of a geospatial information studies training classroom and laboratory; and
 - \$75,000 (recurring) each for UNM and NMSU for a rural and minority youth summer internship program in geospatial information studies.

The roles and responsibilities of the individual institutions regarding any collaborative efforts are unclear.

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted to HED by UNM or NMSU and was not recommended by HED.

GM/mt