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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/07

SPONSOR Rodriguez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE High School Mock Trial Program SB 412

ANALYST A. Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 412 appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the School of Law to conduct the New Mexico High School Mock Trial Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 08 shall revert to the General Fund.

HED states that this request was not submitted by UNM to the Department for review and is not included in their funding recommendation for FY 08. However, HED recommended level funding of \$82,700 for this project for FY 08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED maintains that the UNM Mock Trial program is a hands-on experience for high school students to acquire a working knowledge of the judicial system, develop analytical abilities and communication skills, and gain an understanding of obligations and responsibilities as participating members of society. Per HED, this program impacts more than 200 high school students throughout New Mexico.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED states that although there is no direct implication to the PED performance measures, these funds do support student attainment of the New Mexico Social Studies Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to HED, this year's case problem is a criminal matter dealing with the production and abuse of methamphetamine, which Governor Richardson identified as the number one illegal drug problem in the state. In February, teams try cases before judges and panels of jurors in courtrooms in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. In March, the eight finalists meet in Albuquerque to identify the state champion, who will then represent New Mexico at the national championship in May. Last year Cibola High School was the state champion and placed 13th in the national finals in Oklahoma City.

AG/mt