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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/08

SPONSOR Garcia, T. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 81

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Bilingual Education SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Cox

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$260.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 81 requests an appropriation of \$260,000 from General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for expenditure in FY09 to pay for bilingual education materials statewide for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and for production of a monthly periodical, digitizing of materials, and production of a weekly radio show.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HED states that a request was submitted by NMHU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for review. HED's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$260,000 with no additional funding at this time.

The appropriation of two hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000) contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2009 shall revert to the General Fund.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "would not oppose if funding available" project. Reasons for this

classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p. 74.)

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HED states that the NMHU Bilingual Education Materials Program preserves and promotes the Hispano culture and language of New Mexico statewide, nationally and internationally. This is accomplished by producing bilingual educational materials for schools and other educational institutions as well as for public use. These materials promote the culture by sustaining and augmenting the use of the Spanish language, by promoting literacy in Spanish and English, and providing insight into other aspects of the Hispano culture.

NMHU notes that the goal of the program is to produce and distribute the following materials:

- AMIGOS monthly periodical.
- *Aspectos Culturales* radio program.
- Trainings.
- Digitalization of materials.
- Other publications and presentations.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

If funded, NMHED recommends that NMHU develop a plan for this initiative that includes project goals and objectives as well as timelines and outcomes, including dissemination and use of materials. This should be submitted to NMHED no later than October 2008. Performance should eventually be aligned with the Public Education Department (PED) and NMHED standards, putting a framework in place that will measure success according to an assessment plan.

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