

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/08

SPONSOR Salazar LAST UPDATED _____ HB 129

SHORT TITLE Northern NM State School Athletics Program SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 129 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico State School to establish an athletics program for campus life and recruitment purposes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250.0 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 states that this request of \$250,000 to increase the recurring base funding by an additional amount of \$150,000 was submitted by NNMC to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review but is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "does not fit within HED priorities for Higher Education" 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, p75.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the HED, many rural state institutions have athletic programs. NNMC recently conducted a feasibility study for the athletic program and was funded \$100,000 via the NMHED athletics appropriation in 2007. NNMC plans to begin with men's and women's basketball teams, joining NCAA as a Division II team. The primary athletic expenses for Division II teams nationally are grants in aid to students and salaries for coaches. At NNMC, planning continues to establish an athletic program. Funding would go to salaries for coaches and travel expenses. With funding NNMC could increase its recruitment efforts with a viable athletic program, and possibly improve campus life for the students it serves. Athletic programs tend to focus on producing quality citizens who will make significant contributions to society. A sense of community as well as school spirit is developed around sports teams and events.

The HED states that the Northern New Mexico College's (NNMC) Espanola campus offers about 65 certificate and degree programs such as Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Science, Drafting, Early Childhood Education, Fine Arts, Human Services, Library Technology, Micro Electronics, Management Information Systems, Nursing, Radiography, Science, Substance Abuse Counselor, and Welding Technology. The El Rito campus offers classes that reflect the cultural heritage and arts legacy of the region. According to the NNMC website, many intramural sports are offered at the gym, and a tennis court is available to students and the community. NNMC also offers a summer National Youth Sports Program for local youth ages 10-16.

GH/bb