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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/08

SPONSOR Hamilton LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 189

SHORT TITLE WNMU Internet-Based Teacher Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$388.6	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

House Bill 189 appropriates \$388.6 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University to expand the internet-based teacher preparation program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$388.6 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 the proposal was submitted by WNMU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and is 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 "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, p76.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The PED states that:

- The Network for Web-based Teacher Licensure (NeTL) project was initiated at WNMU in the Fall of 2004 with funding from the NM Higher Education Department (HED);
- WNMU proposes to reduce the teacher shortage in New Mexico by creating an accessible option for teacher licensure and endorsement coursework through its Network for Web-based Teacher Licensure (NeTL);
- NeTL offers a distance learning option for teacher licensure and endorsement coursework through web-based courses that assist teachers to overcome barriers such as geographic isolation, employment schedules, and economic, cultural, and linguistic factors.
- NeTL offers coursework required for licensure and professional advancement accessible in those areas where the lack of full credentials is most serious;
- Courses are 100% accessible by the Internet. Courses may have optional face-to-face or instructional television sessions;
- NeTL has enabled multicultural education to reach teachers and students in Mexico (Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua) and New Mexico (Deming, Gallup, and T or C);
- Spring 2007 had a total 108 unduplicated student count who took the on-line courses;
- Bachelor and Master degrees in education are offered through this program;
- Through the program laptops were also purchased and the program currently has a laptop lending program for students and faculty.

The PED notes that the bill relates to and supports PED's performance measures regarding:

- core academic subjects being taught by highly qualified teachers in high-poverty schools, kindergarten through twelfth grade; and
- percent of elementary and middle school students to achieve the No Child Left Behind Act annual measurable objectives for math, reading and language arts.

The HED states that the proposal complements HED's efforts to extend access of higher education programs through distance delivery.

The HED notes further that part of the overarching mission of WNMU is to provide services to outlying, rural communities. Online course and program offerings make this mission particularly attainable. For many rural students, online education provides the only opportunity to earn college degrees.

GH/mt