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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED _____ HB 204

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Substance Abuse Education SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY08 | FY09 | | |
| | \$150.0 | 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 204 appropriates \$150.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to pay for a Substance Abuse Student Education Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 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.

This request was submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review but is not included in the Department's legislative 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, p73.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states:

In 2005 a federal grant was awarded to NMHU to help address substance abuse and suicide rate issues at Highlands University. This year that grant is coming to an end. The institution fears losing the momentum of the apparent success resulting from on campus and community efforts implemented in Las Vegas. As such NMHU seeks to maintain and build the initiative with state appropriations.

The main goal of the program is to provide campus wide drinking/alcohol poisoning, and violence and prevention training. The intended outcome is to reduce the number of alcohol related incidences on campus and ultimately to reduce state and business expenses related to substance abuse. The funding will specifically support

- The screening of 400 students to learn more about attitudes, behaviors and perceptions about alcohol and substance abuse issues
- Provide brief intervention and treatment to 300 students campus wide

NMHU states that this program has been in existence to NMHU since 2005 through federal funds. The bill replaces federal funds no longer available. Also, the funding is significantly lower than past federal funding. The appropriation is consistent with the University Strategic Plan and assists with the university mission of integrating education, research, public service, and economic development.

GH/nt