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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/08

SPONSOR Martinez, R. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 467

WNMU Regional Economic Statistical Research

SHORT TITLE Center SB \_\_\_\_\_

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ANALYST Williams

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$200.0	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 467 appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University (WNMU) for the purpose of developing and maintaining a regional economic statistical research center.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 10 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED notes funding would establish a University Center Technical Assistance Program, with particular focus on Grant and Luna Counties with Hidalgo, Sierra and Catron counties added later.

It is unclear how this proposal would duplicate or complement current economic data bank and research analysis operations at University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic

Research (see <http://www.unm.edu/~bber/>) and New Mexico State University. These entities are members of the New Mexico State Data Center/Business and Industry Data Center (SDB/BIDC) Program which is a state/local/Census Bureau cooperative effort. Through this program the Census Bureau provides SDB/BIDC affiliates with data and products from Census Bureau programs, survey and censuses. The SDB/BIDC affiliates, in turn, disseminate the information, provide technical assistance and may create additional “value-added” products from the data provided. A fiscal impact report on House Bill 467 was not received from either university.

This proposal was submitted by WNMU to the HED for consideration in fall 2007, but was not included in the Department’s funding recommendation for FY09. The proposal was ranked as #10 among 13 among the university requests. In its November 2007 evaluation of research and public service projects expansion requests and new initiatives, HED rated the WNMU statistical research center as “would not oppose if funding available.”

The January 2008 LFC report “Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects” discusses best practices for funding these types of projects.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Is funding available from county economic development organizations and local chambers of commerce?
2. Would the center generate revenues from contract analysis?
3. How would performance outcomes be measured?
4. How would the operations of the center be different or complement existing data collection and dissemination activities for county, regional and state level data?

AW/bb