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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Chavez ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/08
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 490
SHORT TITLE NM Government Education Fund SB _____
ANALYST Cox

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Higher Education (HED)

Department of Public Education (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 478 requests an appropriation of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the General Fund to the New Mexico Government Education Fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2008 and subsequent fiscal years to contract for annual weeklong high school civics courses focusing on New Mexico state government for boys and girls to be held at varying post-secondary educational institutions in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED) analysis of this Bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained

from other departments.

The New Mexico Government Education Fund consists of appropriations by the legislature, gifts, grants, and donations. If enacted, this legislation would go toward funding an annual high school civics program focusing on New Mexico state government for boys and girls. This weeklong program takes place at a postsecondary institution in New Mexico that changes from year to year. The program provides hands-on experience in a democratic government and demonstrates how political parties are organized and how they work to support New Mexico government. The program would promote a non-partisan perspective through an objective educational approach.

PED notes:

In the 2005 Legislative session, the NM Legislature created the “New Mexico Government Education Fund” in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund is administered by the PED and work is to be contracted out to provide annual, weeklong, high school civics courses focusing on New Mexico state government for boys and girls. This program is to be held at varying postsecondary educational institutions.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain to the credit of the New Mexico Government Education Fund.

The Legislature has not made an appropriation to this fund since 2005. The current appropriation will support the PED in contracting for the services identified above.

Typically, such a program would provide hands-on experience in the operation of a democratic form of government and how political parties are organized and interact in shaping New Mexico government. The program would promote a non-partisan perspective through an objective educational approach. Participants would be exposed to the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training would be practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to various offices.

The program supports a core strand of the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards in civics and government.

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