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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/08

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED _____ HB 631

SHORT TITLE College Tuition For Teacher Tutoring Program SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$15.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Public Education Department (PED)
 New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 631 appropriates \$15.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for a pilot program to provide tuition to teachers in the Las Vegas City Public School District if the teachers tutor students. As part of the program, principals from the school district and officials from New Mexico Highlands University shall determine the ratio of the number of hours tutored to the amount of tuition paid.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15.0 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 not submitted by New Mexico Highlands University to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMHU states that the appropriation is consistent with the University Strategic plan and assists with the university mission of integrating education, research, public service, and economic development.

According to the PED:

The purpose of the Teacher Tuition Tutoring Award (3TA) Pilot Program is to acknowledge, encourage, and support teachers who provide tutoring services to children outside the traditional school day. This pilot program will provide a tuition award to teachers tutoring in their schools and districts. Earned tuition awards may be used to attend New Mexico Highlands University and be applied towards classes to earn additional academic credit. Teachers may apply their award towards classes to increase their content knowledge, to gain additional endorsement or licensure areas, or towards a Masters of Arts degree. Three credits of NMHU credit are earned for 40 hours of tutoring in a school at the P-12 level.

Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary level teachers from the West Las Vegas and Las Vegas City School districts will be invited to participate in the tutoring tuition award program. The pilot program will begin in the fall of 2008 and end after the spring of 2009 semester.

The 3TA program will provide tuition support for 40-45 teachers in the West Las Vegas and Las Vegas City School districts. Approximately 20 teachers will be served per semester.

The Las Vegas City School district receives funding through the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) to meet funding needs. The district has discretion through its SEG, with approval by the PED, to designate needed funding for teacher professional development.

Further, the district is receiving \$158,215 in Title II, Part A funding for FY 08 to support an array of activities. Allowable uses of funds through this federal grant are flexible and generally support improving the quality of educators at all levels. The district has budgeted \$13,343 to Core Content Area goals, \$10,000 is budgeted to support Short-Cycle Assessment goals, \$123,500 is budgeted to support Class Size Reduction goals, and approximately \$11,372 is budgeted for grant administration.

GH/bb