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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/21/08

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Food Products Testing Center SB 26

ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$650.0.	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates To SB25

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 26, NMSU Food Products Testing Center appropriates \$650.0.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 26 appropriates \$650.0 and 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.

According to HED the request is not included in the FY09 Executive recommendation.

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

NMSU states that we have a unique opportunity to leverage this appropriation into a more efficient, and centralized program which can better serve the needs of the state and nation in the animal health, food safety and bio-security arena.

The center consolidates the collective efforts of existing programmatic activities to better support the interaction between research sponsors and NMSU faculty and staff. The center's goal is to increase NMSU's competitiveness in obtaining funding for research, enhance interdisciplinary ongoing food safety programs, and foster collaborative partnerships with federal and state agencies and the food industry/ private sector.

The center's mission is to contribute through research and outreach to the safety and security of agriculture in New Mexico and to significantly strengthen NMSU's ability to anticipate and respond to emerging agriculture threats, both nationally and globally, and to advance knowledge for practical application by the agriculture industry.

The center is starting with the combined technical, financial, and personnel resources from the following key programmatic activities at NMSU and will grow by leveraging the combined capabilities with opportunities of the private sector, federal and state agencies, and universities:

Animal Health

- Evaluation of biochemical, physiological and behavioral mechanisms of parasites influencing animal health production and transmission of pathogenic agents to animals.

Food Safety

- Applied research for the food and drug administration (FDA) includes test and evaluation of rapid microbial detection methods of food pathogens and detection of chemicals in foods. This program is well recognized for improvements to FDA laboratory methods and for its role in the investigation into illness outbreaks from lettuce and spinach in 2006 and 2007.
- Developing methods to control and detect for pathogenic food borne microorganisms and parasites in raw, minimally processed, or inadequately processed and preserved foods.

Bio-Security

- National training programs have been developed and approved by the department of homeland security to increase the awareness and response capabilities to agro-terrorism and natural disasters.
- Supply chain integrity, import examination, and product surety program.
- Agriculture emergency management plan.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates in language and request; however there is a \$10.0. difference in the appropriation for Food Processing and Product Development. SB25 budget request is for \$640.0.