

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/08

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Expand NMSU Communications Disorder Program SB 28/aSEC

ANALYST Cox/Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Department of Higher Education (HED)

Responses Received From
Health Policy Commission (HPC)
Public Education Department (PED)
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Education Committee Amendment

SEC amendment 28 adds an appropriation to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for \$250.0 for the same purposes as the appropriation to New Mexico State University in the original bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 28 appropriates two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the general fund to the Regents of New Mexico State University.

According to Senate Bill 28, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be appropriated from the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 to expand the communications disorders program to increase the number of speech-language pathologists in the public schools. HPC states that this Bill will add to both graduate and under-graduate programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars) 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 HED’s evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a “breach” of the Higher Education Formula. 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, p74.)

PED states that Senate Bill 28 provides financial support to a Communications Disorders Program at New Mexico State University that is currently in place. The expansion of the program would be used to pay tuition and stipends to graduate students who are enrolled in the Program to become Speech Language Pathologists. The expansion pays for tuition and stipends for a full school year, including the summer

PED states that the expansion would be broken out in the following manner: \$75,000 for the wages of the clinical supervisor, \$48,000 for tuition of eight students, \$1,200 a month stipend for 11 months totaling \$ 105,600 for all eight students and \$21,400 for books.

NMSU states that the 2000 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Schools Survey reported that 51% of school-based speech-language pathologists (SLPs) indicated a shortage of qualified SLPs in their school district. State-level data revealed that shortages were most prevalent in Hawaii, Alaska, New Mexico, California, New Hampshire, and Arizona. In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that more than 34,000 additional SLPs and audiologists will be needed to fill the demand between 2000 and 2010.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

PED and others state that there is a relationship between Senate Bill 28 and House Bill 23 in that they both address related service issues for children with disabilities as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at 34 CFR § 300.34. House Bill 17 and 16 relate to similar funding going to UNM for this collaborative effort.

PRC/bb:mt