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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/08

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Sustainable Energy Curriculum Program SB 467

ANALYST Cox

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$400.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 467 requests an appropriation of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 to establish an alternative and sustainable energy curriculum program to be implemented by Luna Community College to establish an educational network of college-preparatory courses for seven school districts in northeastern New Mexico and comprehensive programs for candidates for associate and four-year degrees. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) 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.

This program has received a grant for its current biodiesel program in the amount of \$59,000. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED states:

LCC is a two-year community college committed to serving the changing needs of its student population and the surrounding communities. Its mission is to provide comprehensive education, preparations for relevant employment, and opportunities for life-long learning.

The Renewable Energy Program at LCC, as part of the Department of Math, Science, Engineering and Technology, promotes alternative energy education to the community, provides educational programs to students which are responsive to position New Mexico at the forefront of alternative energy, and creates opportunities for students to find employment upon graduation in professions that use cutting-edge technology. LCC is working in conjunction with New Mexico State University (NMSU) as the four-year institution providing bachelor degrees. According to Mike Adams, LCC representative, the funds earmarked in this proposal will be used for laboratory equipment, the maintenance and upgrade of labs, and repair and training of wind farms in the local area.

LCC provides associate degree programs in Solar and Wind Technology, Biodiesel, Electronics and Engineering, Robotics, Manufacturing, Drafting/AutoCAD/Architectural Engineering. SB467 would fund the recruitment of additional students in the Alternative Energy programs for Fall 2009; new equipment to test solar panels and windmills; biodiesel labs, manufacturing facilities to manufacture solar panels and windmill blades; additional faculty trained in radiant flooring; a water retention pond for recycling wastewater for lawn maintenance, industrial washing, and the biodiesel lab.

A research and public service proposal was submitted by Luna Community College to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review in the amount of \$1,342,960 for this program. It is not included in the Department's executive funding recommendation for FY09.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to this appropriation, the New Mexico Higher Education Department will be the administrator for these funds involving receipt and disbursement to LCC rather than funding of the appropriation directly to the institution.

PRC/bb