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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/09

SPONSOR Salazar LAST UPDATED _____ HB 72

SHORT TITLE Northern NM State School Bachelor's Degree SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 72 appropriates \$500.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College (formerly called Northern New Mexico State School) to establish a baccalaureate program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was submitted by NNMC to the HED for review, but is not recommended for funding for FY10, regardless whether the State's fiscal picture improves.

The HED notes that the enabling legislation (NMSA 1978, Section 21-4-3) only authorizes that NMCC offer a baccalaureate degree program in teacher education.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The HED states:

The degree programs to be developed and implemented include baccalaureate degrees in Biology, Business Administration, Engineering, Environmental Science and Information Technology, Integrated Health Studies, Mathematics, Music and Nursing. The establishment of the new degrees will include faculty, staff, instructional support and the development of student learning outcomes and assessments.

Requested funding will support the establishment of a curriculum for each of the listed baccalaureate programs as well as offer the courses for the curriculum. The establishment of the new degrees will include faculty, staff, instructional support and the development of student learning outcomes and assessments.

Each of these programs fall in several broad areas including allied health, biotechnology, business, environmental science, alternative and integrated health studies, and pre-medicine. These programs are significant workforce areas to the state of New Mexico and have been determined to be shortage areas. Students who receive such training will hopefully contribute to Northern New Mexico's economy and workforce.

Northern's strategic goals will integrate new baccalaureate degree programs as part of their plan to create an environment with students engaged in an integrated educational experience. The established outcomes will be framed around an emphasis on critical thinking, understandings of fundamental concepts, social and historical perspectives, and an understanding of relationships between education and society.

Funds will be used for the start up of five new degree programs (Business Administration, Biology, Environmental Science, Information Technology and Integrative Healing).

GH/mt