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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/24/09

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones LAST UPDATED _____ HB 759

SHORT TITLE Poison & Drug Info Center Program SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

No Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 759 appropriates \$100.0 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to increase the base budget of the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center of the College

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 thousand 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.

According to the February 2009 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$575 million less than the FY09 appropriations before the 2009 solvency reductions. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

With respect to special projects, higher education institutions advanced 114 proposals for new projects and expansions at a total general fund cost of \$54 million during the HED budget request process in fall 2008.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

The HED states that this request was submitted by UNM to the HED for review. The Department would not oppose this project's funding for FY10, if the State's fiscal picture improves.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states:

The New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center is a life saving emergency service provided to all residents of New Mexico. The service reduces healthcare costs by treating less severe poisonings at home and by optimizing the drug therapy of clients.

The Center serves as a major teaching site for the College of Pharmacy and the Department of Emergency Medicine. The Center provides the only post-doctoral training in clinical toxicology in the state.

The New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center helps the New Mexico Department of Health by providing a 24-hour telephone information system that can be activated for public emergencies within several hours of identified need.

According to the FY10 RPSP submitted to NMHED by UNM, demand for the services provided by the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center is raising as statewide public awareness improves. Partnerships and collaborations cited in the RPSP include the New Mexico Department of Health, UNM Department of Emergency Medicine, New Mexico Nurse Hotline, Office of Medical Investigation, and the UNM College of Pharmacy.