

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 1/30/09

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Continue Re:Learning Program SB 287

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$432.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Public Education Department (PED)
 Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 287 appropriates \$432.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University to continue the Re: Learning Program to support school improvement in all grades of public schools statewide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$432.0 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 not submitted by NMSU to the HED for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY10.

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.

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 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.)

ENMU states that this bill would support improving teaching and learning at all public schools statewide. It is well known that students in our public schools are not graduating with the same educational attainment as in previous years. This program is designed to improve the educational experience and attainment at all grade levels.

The PED notes that this bill provides resources to all levels and grades of schools throughout New Mexico for training, coaching and support for instructional personnel and administrators in the development, implementation, and improvement in instructional practices. It relates to the PED's Strategic Plan, Goal 1: Instructional Support and Academic Achievement. An evaluation component of the program included in the language of this bill would help to assure continuation of high-quality programming throughout the state over time. Program evaluations should be shared with the PED and the LESC.

GH/mc