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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Salazar **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/06/12
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 318
SHORT TITLE School Science Programs **SB** _____
ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$900.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 318 appropriates \$900.0 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) for the purpose of funding inquiry science education programs in public schools from kindergarten through eighth grade.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$900.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund for expenditure in Fiscal Years 2013, 2014 and 2015. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2015 shall revert to the general fund. The funding is classified as nonrecurring because it is a multiple year appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED claims this request was not submitted by for review and recommends requests that “circumvent the formal review process not receive funding...”

HED identifies an inquiry-based system has the goal the enhancement of learning based on increased student involvement, acceptance of multiple ways of knowing, and building on

previously learned knowledge. An inquiry-based approach is also known as project- or problem-based learning.

PED assesses that an inquiry-centered program allows students to conceptualize a question and then seek a possible explanation. It teaches students how to think and not simply what to think.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If funded, HED will require NNMC to develop performance measures for the program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill requires the program be established in public schools from kindergarten through grade eight; however, it does not state what schools or what areas of the state are to be served.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

If the intent is to NNMC work with a specific school district, that district should be identified in the bill.

GAC/svb