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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/01/13

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 320

SHORT TITLE UNM "We the People" Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Roberts

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$15.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

#### No Response Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 320 appropriates \$15 thousand dollars from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to implement and support the "We the People: the Citizen and Constitution" program at the University of New Mexico.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED cites that the Center for Civic Education partners with a network of 50 state civics, government, and law programs located in state bar associations and foundations, universities, and other non-profit organizations to promote teaching and learning about the Constitution and

Bill of Rights. These state programs conduct local teacher professional development and conferences and congressional hearings for elementary and secondary students.

Furthermore, since the inception of the “We the People” program in 1987, more than 28 million students and 90 thousand educators have participated. More than 1,200 students participate in the national competition each year. In order to qualify for the national competition, a team must win its state championship. The national competition takes place over three days, with only the top ten teams from the first two days advancing to the final day. For the 2012-2013 school year Moriarty High School participated in the “We the People” national competition.

The Director of the Center for Democracy and Civic Education in New Mexico stated this program has been operational for 26 years, but is no longer funded by the U. S. Department of Education. The funds would be used to provide professional development for teachers who have not had formal training or education on the Constitution, Government and other Civics related subjects, so that they can conduct mock hearings and provide other training opportunities to educate students about the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These funds would also be used to reimburse judges, lawyers and other scholars for mileage and meals when they are invited to participate in professional development activities.

The HED notes that this bill does not directly pertain to the department but however, may have an indirect impact.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Board of Regents at the University of New Mexico would be responsible for administering and distributing the funds to implement and operate the “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” program.

MIR/svb