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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/13

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED 02/27/13 HB 539

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Public School Teacher Assistance SB _____

ANALYST Roberts/Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$850.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

No Response Received From:

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 539 appropriates \$850 thousand dollars from the general fund to the board or regents of New Mexico highlands university to provide research-based professional development and technical assistance to public school teachers and youth and family engagement opportunities to public school students and their families.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$850 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. The bill states that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund; however, if this appropriation is included in Section 4 of the General Appropriation Act, the funds will be considered recurring unless explicitly stated otherwise.

House Bill 2 does not include an appropriation for this program

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED notes that NMHU has an on-going statewide program called the Center for Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) to provide professional development and technical assistance to schools that have failed aspects of the standards-based assessments, which are mandated by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. NMHU's 20-year program assists these schools through teacher professional development and classroom observations to help the schools be removed from the failure list.

The NMHU notes that the CESDP model is unique to New Mexico and represents a shift in paradigm from previous models. First, by identifying a milieu of assets in schools, communities, and among agencies and organizations, CESDP staff will create plans for a convergence of resources at targeted school sites. Second, resources will be deployed through a comprehensive and systematic plan of integrated service delivery. This plan of service delivery will address the needs of students, families, teachers and other school personnel by providing a wide range of direct 'wrap around' services. NMHU's model will help identify targeted needs of school personnel, parents and families, and students—including their physical and mental wellbeing. Once those needs are met, CESDP staff can provide technical support by converging resources, providing high quality professional development, addressing intergenerational trauma support and intervention strategies, creating youth leadership opportunities, and providing high quality needs based training for parents and community members.

ALTERNATIVES

The HED further notes that the provision in SB 539 for addressing youth and family engagement opportunities to public school students and their families could be augmented through association with the long-standing Parental Involvement Program administered by the PED. The Parental Involvement Program is a statewide initiative established to maximize the meaningful engagement of parents, school personnel, and community members in enhancing student social and academic growth. This organization has established working relationships with a number of parent groups throughout the state and has conducted workshops for parental groups on best practices for developing strong parental involvement goals and outcomes. It is difficult to assess fully whether the PED could provide these services since the department did not provide an analysis for this bill.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The HED notes that this request was not submitted by NMHU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. HED has established a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions. This process requires prior approval by the governing body of the university or college. It also provides for analysis of each request by HED, DFA and LFC. HED recommends requests that circumvent the formal review process not receive funding in the annual budget but be directed to be resubmitted for funding in FY15.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The board or regents of New Mexico highlands university will be responsible for administering the funds to provide research-based professional development and technical assistance to public school teachers and youth and family engagement opportunities to public school students and their families.

MIR:THT/blm