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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodella ORIGINAL DATE 02/04/14
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 282

SHORT TITLE Northern NM State School Veterans Center SB _____

ANALYST Chavez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$105.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in HB 2

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 282 appropriates \$105 thousand from the general fund to the Northern New Mexico state school (NNMC) to create a veteran's center on the Espanola to provide assistance in the transition from military to civilian and student life.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

As drafted, the appropriation of \$105 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

Section 4 of the House Appropriations and Finance (HAFC) committee substitute for HB 2 currently contains an appropriation for \$125 thousand for NNMC to create a veterans center on the Espanola campus. HB 282 duplicates this appropriation.

Both HB 283 and the appropriation in HB 2 are new appropriations for FY15.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED notes the appropriation contained in this bill would be used for training of staff and contracting for services related to veterans' benefits, including counseling on education and health benefits for approximately 20 hours per week. This would help veterans returning from recent military campaigns to receive services on the campus, rather than wait for a Veteran's Administration representative from Taos to schedule services at NNMC, according to HED.

NNMC has a Student Veterans Office in the Advisement Center of the Espanola Campus

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB 283 would appropriate funds to the "Northern New Mexico state school," now known as Northern New Mexico College. Article VII, Section 11 of the state's constitution identifies NNMC as the "northern New Mexico state school."

KC/ds