

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 and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/21/2014
SPONSOR Papen **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program **SB** 35

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$171.2	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$171.2	\$171.2	\$342.4	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: New Mexico State University, Mental Health Practitioner Program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 New Mexico Board of Nursing (BON)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 35 appropriates \$171.2 thousand from the general fund to NMSU to support the mental health nurse practitioner program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$171.2 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.

In FY14, the mental health nurse practitioners program received a recurring general fund appropriation of \$252.8 thousand. For FY15, NMSU requested an additional \$171.2 thousand for a total program expansion and a total budget of \$424 thousand. For FY15, the HED did not request additional funding for the program as part of its annual budget submission, and both the LFC and the Executive recommended the FY14 general fund level. (See LFC Volume II, page 338.)

This bill would result in a 68 percent increase over the recommendations.

NMSU reports that the additional funding would support

- 10 part-time advanced practice nurses to teach and supervise clinical experiences and projects.
- Preparations for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program accreditation site visit in February 2014, including software required for tracking student clinical hours.
- 2 mobile telehealth units used to provide summer clinical immersion experiences for DNP students so they can extend outreach and treatment to rural and underserved areas.
- Travel expenses for speakers booked for the DNP orientation this summer.
- 2 energy pods purchased to support neuropsychiatric research by psychiatric/mental health faculty and doctoral students.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU provides the only graduate mental health nursing program in the state. Appropriations support the family psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner (NP) program, preparing licensed nurses to enter into advanced psychiatric/mental health practice. NMSU graduates a steady supply of NPs, and appropriations fund graduate faculty and student services.

In New Mexico, NPs can practice independently of supervision by other providers to provide diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of mental health illnesses and conditions, including full prescriptive authority. Frequently, these NPs are considered primary care providers for mental health.

Numerous national and state reports cite the need for more nurse practitioners and more nurse practitioners in particular fields (midwifery, mental health) and serving particular areas (rural). The BON cites the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing (2011) to support the need for advanced practice nurses. The BON stated that New Mexico continues to experience a shortage of mental health practitioners, particularly in rural areas. The LFC's May 2013 report on the adequacy of the state's healthcare workforce needs called for increasing the number of nurse practitioners and addressing the critical shortage of mental health providers (whether counselors, caseworkers, physicians, nurses) throughout the state and especially in rural areas by expanding financial aid and education programs and changing licensing and practicing laws.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU's program performance includes the following highlights:

- Graduated 106 nurses over the last 6 years.

- Approximately percent graduates practice in New Mexico.
- Currently 19 students are enrolled at all levels of the program, with the goal of admitting 8-10 new students for Fall 2014.
- In FY13, 14 psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner graduates took their national certification exam and 11 passed it on the first attempt.

ALTERNATIVES

The state could support multiple graduate nursing programs or expand the existing one at NMSU; however, further study would be needed to determine financial and other costs associated with starting other programs.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The NMSU program will continue to maintain small cohorts of mental health nurse practitioners.

THT/ds