

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

SPONSOR Papen **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/18/14
LAST UPDATED 01/22/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Nurse Expansion Program **SB** 37

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	237.8	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, NMSU Nurse Expansion

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 37 appropriates \$237.8 thousand from the general fund for the purpose of expanding nurse faculty training.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$237.8 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.

In FY14, the NMSU nurse expansion program received a recurring general fund appropriation of \$441.5 thousand. For FY15, NMSU requested an additional \$237.8 thousand in general fund revenues, for a total program expansion of \$679.3 thousand.

For FY15, the LFC recommended \$699.7 thousand in general fund support while the Executive recommended the FY14 general fund level. (See LFC Volume II, page 338.) The LFC's general

fund recommendation included \$441.5 thousand in FY14 base funding, \$87.9 thousand in reallocated nurse performance enhancement funds, and an additional \$170.3 for nursing faculty. The \$170.3 thousand is to add 2 faculty members and expand the undergraduate nursing cohort by 16 new students for academic year 2014-2015.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU seeks additional funding for FY15 primarily to aid the School of Nursing in implementing a common nursing curriculum on NMSU main campus and at the NMSU Grants campus. The common curriculum has been developed by the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) and participating institutions and approved by the Higher Education Department. According to NMSU, the

“innovative curriculum plan [is] based on a conceptual learning approach. Our faculty will need to learn the strategies and techniques necessary to effectively teach this new curriculum. We are proposing to offer a workshop on concept-based curricula and teaching this year and to invite all nurse educators in the state to attend. We would also like to devote some faculty to developing online faculty development videos and learning modules that could be offered through a NMNEC depository for all partner schools.”

More funding would also support NMSU efforts to provide nursing education opportunities to students formerly attending the NMSU Dona Ana branch nursing program and those participating in the NMSU Alamogordo nursing program. NMSU Dona Ana program failed to maintain its national program accreditation, and the NMSU Alamogordo program is slated to close in summer 2014. With the loss of these two programs, the NMSU main campus School of Nursing has increased its admissions cohorts by 33 percent to meet student needs and workforce demands.

More generally, the New Mexico healthcare providers are concerned with a lack of qualified healthcare workers. The BON supports the Institute of Medicine’s *Future of Nursing* (2011) that concluded nursing professionals should have higher education levels and that a qualified workforce should include more bachelor’s level nurses. The HED reported that New Mexico has a low ratio of registered nurses to the population (1:105), ranking the state 44th in the nation. Additional nursing program capacity would lead to more nurses, and more nurses with advanced levels of education, to provide healthcare.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no performance implications associated with this bill. The Legislature may consider adding specific bill language or performance measures as part of the Accountability in Government Act that connect funding to increased student cohort size and gauging the effectiveness of faculty training for implementing the common nursing curriculum.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

NMSU states that, without additional funding, the School of Nursing may not be able to serve the increasing demand for nurse education or offer professional development opportunities for NMSU nurse educators and others in the state.