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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez, RC **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/30/14
LAST UPDATED 02/04/14 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Mesa Vista & Peñasco School Early College Program **SB** 225

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Higher Education Department (HED)

No Response
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 225 appropriates \$150 thousand to PED for the Early College High School (ECHS) Program at Mesa Vista Consolidated and Peñasco Independent School Districts.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill's \$150 thousand appropriation is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Distinguishing characteristics of the ECHS program include the following:

- The opportunity for students to graduate from high school with both a diploma of excellence and an associate of arts degree.
- Graduates will be prepared to join the work force upon graduation.
- A determination of existing areas of employment within the local areas and the state will have been completed.
- Proposed curricula will link course work with identified areas of employment.

According to HED analysis, the existing GEAR UP initiative could effectively support the ECHS proposal. GEAR UP is currently operating in 25 schools within 12 New Mexico school districts, aims of to bring the awareness of college attendance to students and to generate the desire to include college attendance as a goal. The Peñasco Independent School District is currently within the GEAR UP cohort. The required link to the workforce in the ECHS proposal would be served well by the existing rule specifying the requirements of host postsecondary institutions within established Geographic Areas of Responsibility (GAR). In this regard, NMAC 5.2.4.9 states, in part, that the postsecondary institution “[c]oordinate a needs assessment to determine the programs required to support current and future workforce demands within the GAR.”

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 7 includes \$500 thousand for Early College High School startup funding within the PED Special Appropriations (page 150, lines 20-21). Additionally, HB 7 states that “[t]he general fund appropriation to the public education department for early college high school startup shall be distributed to a minimum of two early college high schools” (page 152, lines 12-13).

JA/ds