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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez ORIGINAL DATE 02/10/14
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Northern NM State School Veterans Center SB 261

ANALYST Chavez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 282

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

Senate Bill 261 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. SB 261 duplicates this appropriation.

Both SB 261 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

DUPLICATION

This bill duplicates HB 282.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB 261 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:svb