

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 24

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .197483.1

Short Title: UNM Pain Management Center

Sponsor(s): Senator Michael Padilla

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 19, 2015

Bill Summary:

SB 24 makes an appropriation to support the Pain Management Center (PMC) at the University of New Mexico (UNM).

Fiscal Impact:

\$1.1 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

The Higher Education Department (HED) reports that this request was not submitted by UNM to HED as part of the formal budget review process for FY 16 appropriations.

HED also states that while SB 24 does not specify a recurring appropriation, an internal PMC presentation at UNM in FY 14 indicated a multi-year program with an estimated full-funding cost of approximately \$3.5 million. The project was ranked fifth out of the 10 new and expansion projects contemplated by the UNM Health Sciences Center.

Substantive Issues:

According to UNM, chronic pain and addiction to prescription drugs are two of the most pressing public health issues in New Mexico. For the last decade, New Mexico has led the nation in unintentional overdose deaths. Over 18 counties in New Mexico have unintentional opiate overdose death rates at four to six times the national average.

UNM states that funding for the PMC FY 16 request would:

- increase access to care for patients suffering from chronic pain and addiction;
- provide outreach services in pain and addiction consultation for primary care providers;
- provide continuing medical education to all New Mexico clinicians;
- monitor health outcomes related to chronic pain and unintentional, opiate-related overdoses; and
- decrease the number of unintentional opiate overdose deaths.

Background:

According to UNM, the PMC is the only interdisciplinary, best practices pain center in New Mexico with robust integrated pain and addiction services. The PMC has specialists in:

- neurology;
- addictions psychiatry;
- behavioral health;
- pediatric pain;
- interventional pain management;
- physical therapy;
- pharmacy; and
- nursing services.

Over 6,500 patients are seen annually in the PMC regardless of ability to pay.

Patients are referred by their primary care providers from throughout the state. The current waitlist for a new patient appointment is over six months.

Committee Referrals:

SPAC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 80 *UNM Dental Science Program*

SB 89 *UNM Brain Safe Program*

SB 422 *Pain Relief Act Changes*