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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/2015
SPONSOR Padilla **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Pain Management Center **SB** 24

ANALYST Hartzler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$1,100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$1,100.0	\$1,100.0	\$2,200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4J, Higher Education, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Research and Public Service Projects

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center (HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 24 (SB 24) appropriates \$1.1 million from the general fund to UNM to fund the pain management center.

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee endorsed SB 24.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund. However, if this appropriation for the pain management program is included in Section 4 of the General Appropriation Act, the funding will not revert to the general fund pursuant to legislative language governing that section.

The university requested general fund support for this project as part of the HED's budget process to consider research and public service projects. For FY16, the university requested \$1.9 million in general fund support, and proposed another \$1.5 million in future years. The Higher Education Department (HED) did not request funding for this project in FY16, and neither the LFC nor the Executive recommended funding for FY16.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to UNM HSC,

Chronic pain and addiction to prescription opioids are two of the most pressing public health crises in New Mexico. For the last decade, New Mexico has led the country for unintentional overdose deaths. Over 18 counties in New Mexico (in Northern, Central and Southern New Mexico) have unintentional opioid overdose death rates at 4-6 times the national average.

The UNM Pain Center is the only interdisciplinary, best-practices pain center in New Mexico and is designated as an American Pain Society Clinical Center of Excellence. UNM Pain Center specialists include: neurology, addictions psychiatry, behavioral health, pediatric pain, interventional pain management, physical therapy, pharmacy, and nursing services. Specialists provide two type of service:

- (1) Provides patient care. Over 6,500 patients are seen annually in the UNM Pain Center 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 6 months. These patients suffering from chronic pain are at risk for developing addiction, as well as depression and anxiety.
- (2) Provides continuing medical education (CME) training to healthcare providers. As one of six states in the country, New Mexico requires all clinicians, regardless of licensure, to complete CME training specific to pain and addiction.

With the general fund appropriation in SB 24, the pain center will

- 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.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Included in UNM's FY16 request for this project, performance measures included the number of CMEs offered and the number of patients treated per clinician. If funded, these measures and others should be included among the University's performance measures.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 24 is related to the UNM HSC's other research and public service projects funded in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4. The pain management center currently does not receive general fund support.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Increasing pain and addiction training of primary care providers and health care workers should improve health outcomes for New Mexicans, reducing the wait-times for patients to receive treatment and ultimately reducing accidental opioid deaths.

TH/je