

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](http://www.nmlegis.gov)) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/2015  
 SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED 3/9/2015 HB \_\_\_\_\_  
 SHORT TITLE Use of Nurse Educators Fund For Degree SB 341/aSFI#1  
 ANALYST Hartzler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	N/A		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicate of HB 121.

#

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC)

#### SUMMARY

##### Synopsis of Senate Floor Amendment #1

The Senate Floor Amendment #1 amended Senate Bill 341 to make individuals studying for their doctorate of nursing practice also eligible to receive financial aid from the nurse educators fund.

##### Synopsis of Bill

SB 341 proposes to amend Section 21-1-27.7 NMSA 1978 to expand the pool of individuals eligible to receive financial aid from the nurse educators fund to pursue advanced nursing degrees to teach at public colleges and universities.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact as a result of SB 341. In FY14 HED spent nearly \$145 thousand in general fund appropriations on the Nurse Loan-for-Service program. The Legislature increased support for this program in FY15, with a general fund appropriation of nearly \$850 thousand.

For FY16, both the LFC and Executive recommendations maintained the FY15 general fund level.

While SB 341 would not have a fiscal impact on the fund, making more nurses eligible for awards from the fund would likely increase demand and result in unmet financial need.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

DOH reports that “New Mexico’s nursing shortage is worse than the national average, with about one third of the state’s nurses at or above the retirement age. SB 341 is aligned with policies proposed by the Legislature and Governor in recent years that are aimed at increasing the supply of qualified nurses in New Mexico.” Further, the bill supports DOH’s 2016 strategic plan, result 4: recruitment and retention of health professionals to respond for health care shortage ages.

HED notes that the purpose of SB 341 is to allow registered nurses seeking to be nursing educators at public higher education institutions access funds to get advanced nursing degrees. The bill expands the current pool of eligible nurses, consisting of nurse educators currently working at the state’s public institutions. Expanding the pool of eligible students should lead to more nurse educators and more nurses seeking graduate degrees.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no performance measures associated with this bill. Should SB 341 be enacted, HED may consider reporting the number of nurses seeking loans-for-service aid who are both currently working at public institutions and those who come from other providers and institutions. In addition, the department may consider tracking individuals who applied for financial assistance but were not awarded due to lack of funds or other reasons.

### **DUPLICATION**

SB 341 is a duplicate of HB 121. The House may consider amending HB 121 to include the addition of individuals pursuing a doctorate of nursing practice as eligible to receive aid from the nurse educators fund.

TH/bb