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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodriguez **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/5/2015
LAST UPDATED 2/5/2015 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe Community College Radiography Program **SB** 410

ANALYST Hartzler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16	FY17		
	\$27.2	\$54.5	Recurring	Institutional Tuition/Fees

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$300.0	\$300.0	\$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act , Section 4J Higher Education, Santa Fe Community College

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 410 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to SFCC for the purpose of starting a radiography technician program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand 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 radiography technician 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.

Because SFCC did not submit a FY16 budget request for this program, the HED did not request general fund support and the Executive recommendation did not include funding for this program. But, in fall 2014, the college initially proposed \$300 thousand in general fund support to hire faculty and purchase supplies and equipment necessary to start and maintain this program. Based on this request, the LFC recommendation included \$100 thousand for this program. If SB 410 and the LFC recommendation are adopted, SFCC's radiography technician program would receive \$400 thousand in general fund appropriations.

SFCC estimates that it will generate nearly \$27.2 thousand and \$54.5 thousand in FY16 and FY17, respectively, from tuition and fees. This is in addition to any state general fund support the college would receive pursuant to the instruction and general (I&G) funding formula that funds instructional costs. Should this program start in FY16, it may be possible in FY18 and later to reduce general fund support based on increased tuition and fees revenue, direct state general fund appropriations through the I&G formula, and mill levy support.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Until academic year 2013-2014, Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) offered a radiography technician program. The program, the only one serving northern New Mexico, was terminated. After a careful review, SFCC offered to provide such a program to serve local needs. According to SFCC,

there is a strong preference by New Mexico healthcare providers to hire local graduates.

Maintaining a local program would bring continued employment to the community and increase STEM higher education options to students, which is a priority of New Mexico. Medical imaging jobs such as radiography technology are high-wage jobs. Average pay is \$26.88 per hour with an associate degree in radiography technology. Every dollar invested in students in any higher education program at SFCC will increase a student's wage by \$4.30. It is expected that the Affordable Care Act will continue to create an increased demand for healthcare providers and technicians. Seventy eight percent (78 percent) of radiography technology graduates find employment within 6 months of graduation. According to the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, healthcare careers across the state are expected to grow 28 percent by 2020.

There are six accredited radiography programs in the state:

- Bachelor of Science: University of New Mexico
- Associate of Applied Science: New Mexico State University -- Dona Ana Community College, Clovis Community College, Central New Mexico Community College, Eastern New Mexico University – Roswell, and Pima Medical Institute (a for-profit college)

There is conflicting information on the projected need for radiography technicians in New Mexico. According to HED, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that this professional may experience a 13 percent growth rate nationally. New Mexico has seen an increase in the number of technicians in recent years, with most earning associate degrees and finding employment in local hospitals, diagnostic imaging centers, and physician offices.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no performance measures associated with this appropriation. If SFCC receives a general fund appropriation or starts the radiography program separately, the college should report the number of students who applied, were admitted, persist, and complete and licensure pass rates.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

While there are 5 other associate degree programs in radiography, none are in northern New Mexico. The closest program to Santa Fe or Espanola is in Albuquerque.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Students interested in such a program will need to attend programs in Albuquerque, southern New Mexico, or travel out-of-state, unless a portion of the program can be delivered to Santa Fe online at the Santa Fe Higher Learning Center or other facility.

TH/bb/je