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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hamilton **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/14/16
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 73
SHORT TITLE WNMU Veteran PTSD Treatment Project **SB** _____
ANALYST Mulligan

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$200.0	Recurring	Veterans Virtual Reality Treatment Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

- Relates to HB 2, Section 4J, Higher Education, appropriation to Western New Mexico University

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Higher Education

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The bill would extend the Veterans Virtual Reality Treatment Pilot Project at Western New Mexico University (WNMU) through fiscal year 2018; create the veterans virtual reality treatment pilot fund at WNMU; and appropriate \$200.0 from the General Fund to WNMU.

The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the efficacy of virtual treatment for PTSD for veterans in settings closer to their residences through the application of technology.

The bill provides that WNMU will provide an evaluation component and report the results of the project annually to the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

The project was initiated through a special appropriation in FY14 of \$100.0. It is unclear whether the program was continued as a base program in FY15 or FY16.

HED reports that the request was not submitted by WNMU to HED and was not part of the Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP) process in FY17.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed appropriation is not included in the LFC recommendation.

MM/jo/jle