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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Armstrong **ORIGINAL DATE** _____ **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 223

SHORT TITLE UNM Health-Related Research **SB** _____

ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$900.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 220, which has been determined to be germane
Relates to SB 150

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 223 appropriates \$900 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the purpose of funding health-related applied research, policy analysis and program evaluation and to add staff for that purpose to UNM's Institute for Policy, Evaluation, and Applied Research (IPEAR).

The Institute would be charged with

- responding to requests by the executive and legislative branches of state government;
- obtaining and evaluating information from throughout New Mexico to develop and monitor the state's health policy, identifying best practices and strategies for improving the health status of New Mexicans;
- evaluating population health, including the prevalence, costs and impact of chronic diseases;

- conducting evaluations of health-related programs statewide and reporting recommendations to the government’s executive and legislative branches;
- providing information and analysis on health issues,
- providing a list of current health research matters for the legislative health and human services committee to consider when devising its annual work plan, estimating of the cost and time required for research pursuant to the work plan.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$900 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 2017 shall revert to the general fund

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

IPEAR currently provides oversight over the following entities: Center for Regional Studies, Center for Educational Policy Research, the Geospatial Population Studies unit, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, and the Land Grant Council. It also has oversight over affiliated centers including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy.

UNM comments, “The UNM Health Sciences Center’s Institute for Policy, Evaluation and Applied Research (IPEAR) would be located under the Executive Vice Chancellor so that it could work in close collaboration with our other workforce initiatives and programs. Also under the Executive Vice Chancellor currently is our Office for Health Policy, workforce analysis initiatives and programs, and several policy analysis initiatives. Therefore, the IPEAR, as proposed in this bill and placed in our organization as described, would readily and routinely interact with all units at UNM involved in health policy, development and analysis, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.”

DOH states that the institute contemplated by HB 223 would assume functions previously performed by the Health Policy Commission until it was disbanded in 2010. The bill, if enacted, would place functions within the institute some of which are currently being performed through the Legislative Finance Committee, DOH, and UNM. DOH comments further that the bill does not require the institute to collaborate with other agencies and institutions performing health policy research or policy analysis.

DOH quotes from IPEAR’s website (ipear.unm.edu) that part of IPEAR’s reason for existence is to “improve the marketing of UNM’s capacity to engage in sponsored research... and to protect UNM’s brand in this area by monitoring the quality of work products coming out of the institute, and streamlining communication with policy makers and potential clients,” and states that it is unclear that an institute of health-related research and policy analysis be placed in that environment.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH comments that this bill “relates to DOH’s FY 17-19 Strategic Plan, Result 1: Improved health outcomes for the people of New Mexico,” by providing data and analysis that might lead to improved policy and outcomes.

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HED notes that a yearly report to the Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services would be required of the institute.

DUPLICATES Senate Bill 220.

RELATES to SB 150, which appropriates \$300 thousand to UNM to prepare its 2016 Health Care Workforce Report.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH notes that “The Health Information System Act (24-14A-1 et seq. NMSA 1978) authorizes the DOH to establish a health information system to obtain information on 12 health factors of which morbidity and mortality are two factors. The Health Information System Act may overlap and cause duplication of effort with section 1.C and section 1.E of House Bill 223... If approved, HB 223 would introduce a relatively new institution to some communities where the intended effort would be duplicative to existing services and programs...”

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