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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/16

SPONSOR Salazar, N. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 226

SHORT TITLE NMHU Health Career Undergrad Students SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Dulany

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17	FY18		
	\$100.0	100.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases

Duplicates Senate Bill 83 and Senate Bill 130

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 226 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to New Mexico Highlands University for expenditure in FY17 to establish a demonstration and research program to prepare undergraduate students from small universities for successful entry into medical school or other related health fields. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$100 thousand appropriation contained in HB 226 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 reverts to the general fund.

The Legislature, recognizing the need to fill provider gaps throughout the state, has increased appropriations for medical education in recent years. For FY16, the Legislature appropriated:

- nearly \$8.4 million for nurse expansion to 19 institutions throughout the state;
- \$1.8 million for medical residencies at UNM HSC;
- \$4.1 million in student financial aid for health-related degree programs through the Higher Education Department; and
- nearly \$2.7 million for health care professional development, allied health, and dental hygiene programs across multiple institutions.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HB 226 specifies the proposed program includes a focused undergraduate curriculum, summer science academies, remote learning, medical school entrance exam (MCAT) preparation, and mentoring by rural physicians and physicians associated with the New Mexico Hispanic Medical Association.

Although not aimed at small universities, UNM has a program similar to the one proposed in HB 226. The UNM BA/MD degree program seeks to help alleviate physician shortages, especially in medically underserved areas, by admitting a diverse class of 28 high school seniors “who are committed to serving New Mexico communities demonstrating the greatest need.” As of 2015, the program has admitted 10 cohorts (four undergraduate cohorts, four School of Medicine cohorts, and two graduating cohorts). According to UNM HSC, participating students choose from three undergraduate degree major choices:

1. an arts and sciences major;
2. Health, Medicine, and Human Values – Biomedical Sciences concentration; or
3. Health, Medicine, and Human Values – Health, Humanities, and Society concentration.

The UNM BA/MD program includes integrated health seminars throughout the four years of undergraduate curriculum as well as participation in summer service learning experiences in rural communities that are medically underserved. In 2015, students went to Gallup, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Silver City, Farmington, and Taos. The program also includes specialized academic advising, mentorship from peers and clinicians, tutoring and supplemental instruction, scholarships, and an MCAT preparatory course.

Funding for the UNM BA/MD program is built into UNM HSC’s annual instruction and general (I&G) appropriation. According to UNM HSC, about \$4.3 million of I&G funding is dedicated to the BA/MD program in FY16.

In October 2015, the New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee released its annual report and for the first time included physician assistants, dentists, and pharmacists in the analysis. New Mexico’s counties would need 136 physician assistants, 73 dentists, and 293 more pharmacists to meet national benchmarks. The shortages are uneven across counties. For example, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos counties together have about 180 physician assistants above the national average, but Dona Ana, Otero, Eddy, Lea, and Chaves counties are short about 69. Among dentists the pattern is similar with surpluses in the metro and north-central regions and the most severe shortages in the southeast corner of the state.

Pharmacist shortages are more severe with surpluses in the metro area and shortages nearly everywhere else.

UNM HSC notes full implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has made health care workforce demand a national issue. New Mexico in particular faces challenges due to its geographic size and large percentage of rural and underserved populations, according to UNM HSC. The center states HB 226 would assist in addressing the state's health care workforce shortages.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The New Mexico Hispanic Medical Association cites a 2010 World Health Organization report concluding that “studies from developed countries have consistently shown that health professionals from a rural background are more likely to practice in rural areas”. Additionally, research shows medical education programs that have rural medicine as an integral part of the curriculum further encourage and reinforce a commitment to provide healthcare in a rural community.

### **DUPLICATION**

HB 226 duplicates SB 130 and SB 83.

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