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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/16
SPONSOR Morales **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Rural NM Universities' Dental Health Programs **SB** 240

ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$127.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$127.0	\$127.0	\$254.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 240 appropriates \$127 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health to fund a dental health careers program, operated by an entity with at least five years experience in training youth in Southwestern New Mexico to enter health careers, for students of Western New Mexico University or another university located in a rural area of New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$127 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at end of FY17 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED stated that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) projects that there will be an excess of 291 Dental Hygienists and a shortfall of 198 dentists in New Mexico in 2025. The HHS also indicates that currently there are 78 Dental Health Profession Shortage Areas in New Mexico. The shortage of Dental Health Professionals significantly affects the rural regions of New Mexico.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HED stated that SB240 is related to House Bill191. If enacted, HB191 would allow dental therapists to be licensed to perform a number of basic clinical dental treatment and preventative services under the general and indirect supervision of dentists. Presently, there are no public dental therapy education programs in New Mexico. The enactment of HB191, the projected shortage of dentists, and projected excess of dental hygienists may affect the nature of the dental career programs that are implemented as a result of an appropriation being approved for SB240.

EC/al