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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Moores ORIGINAL DATE 02/02/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Funding for Student Athlete Health Services SB 56
ANALYST Gelay

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 56 (SB56) appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the purpose of providing mental and behavioral health services to student athletes.

SB56 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the purpose of providing mental and behavioral health services to student athletes.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund. (See Technical Issues section)

HED provided the following comment:

Neither New Mexico State University nor the University of New Mexico submitted this request to the HED for possible incorporation into the HED higher education comprehensive funding recommendation. HED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the HED funding recommendation.

UNM provided the following:

This appropriation would allow the Department of Athletics and Health Sciences Center to create a fully-funded program for the provision of behavioral health services to student-athletes. As insurance coverage for these services varies, particularly with regards to co-pays and deductibles that student athletes have to pay, along with limitations on numbers of visits, the services are not fully reimbursed by insurance. Additionally, there is a need for coordination of services and for outreach to other community members on young adult behavioral health, which would be funded by this proposal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Laws 2019, Chapter 278 (SB536), the supplemental spending bill, included an appropriation of \$357 thousand dollars to provide nutrition and behavioral health services for student athletes at UNM. However, the appropriation was line item vetoed.

UNM provided the following:

This legislation is part of a University-wide commitment to addressing behavioral health issues in young adults from all backgrounds. Young adults in NM experience higher rates of substance misuse and suicidal ideation and behaviors. Student-athletes are exposed to high rates of environmental stress in the form of balancing school and sport obligations. Additionally, they may have pressure to financially support extended families currently and in the future. Further, they may have pressures from fellow students and community members that are amplified by social media. According to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) statistics, approximately one in four college athletes will experience a mental health condition. Statistically, student-athletes and other college students are at the age when mental illness begin to manifest; 75 percent by age 24. In 2013, the NCAA Chief Medical Office declared mental health as the No. 1 health and safety concern in the NCAA. Generally, college students are more open than previous generations to seek help. However, that number is lower for college athletes, which means more proactive outreach steps have to be taken to get them in for services.

UNM has been able to provide student-athletes with ongoing and crisis behavioral health services thanks to a partnership with UNM Health Sciences and the School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, but this arrangement does not meet all of the need and leaves current providers vulnerable to burnout. For UNM, the proposed funding

in SB56 would allow that partnership to grow through the hiring of an additional psychologist by the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; and a wellness coordinator by the Department of Athletics and adding on call services. This psychologist would provide scheduled and on-call therapeutic services in conjunction with existing faculty members, as well as train coaches and Athletic Department staff and administrators regarding mental health and substance misuse. The wellness coordinator would assist in ensuring appropriate training of staff and administrators, as well as ensuring all students receive the services they need. Ultimately, they could play a role in sharing this model program with other areas schools and families.

The goal of SB56 is to create a model program that allows student athletes to address their behavioral health issues and lead successful lives post-graduation. UNM hopes that this model could be deployed with other young adults in New Mexico and serve as a national model.

NMSU provided the following:

The mental health of student athletes is one of the top issues facing college athletics today. Currently, we utilize the university's resources for mental health; having these funds would allow us to develop a training program on the special problems of student athletes for current and future counselors.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no performance measures in SB56. HED suggests that, if passed, UNM and NMSU should work with HED to develop performance measures.

UNM provides the following:

Potential performance measures could include 1) number of student-athletes treated; 2) number of outreach events; 3) metrics for increasing resiliency based on baseline ACE scores.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB56 contains reversion language, where unexpended balances from the appropriation revert to the general fund. Higher education institutions, which include UNM and NMSU, do not revert unexpended balances.

JGG/sb