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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo/Gallegos/Lujan/Gurrola/Thomson LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/27/2023
SHORT TITLE Higher Ed Physician Shortages BILL NUMBER House Bill 278
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$7,500.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Relates to appropriations in the General Appropriation Act

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 278

House Bill 278 appropriates \$7.5 million from the general fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for programs to address physician shortages in New Mexico.

This bill does not contain an effective date, and as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$7.5 million contained in this bill is associated with on-going programming and therefore is considered a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Higher Education Department notes:

There is a well-documented shortage of physicians in New Mexico. An August 2021 report on the Health Care Workforce in New Mexico, presented to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, documented a shortage of 328 Primary Care Physicians, 56 Obstetrics and Gynecology Physicians, 10 General Surgeons, 87 Dentists, and 6,223 RNs/CNSs, and additional shortages in all other health care professions. The shortages are projected to get worse as current medical professionals start to retire.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB278 is related to appropriations in the General Appropriation Act (GAA). The GAA contains an appropriation of \$1.5 million for the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, and \$10 million for medical professional loan repayment. Both of these initiatives are intended to address physician shortage.

CJ/rl/ne