

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Egolf ORIGINAL DATE 03/10/09
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 562
SHORT TITLE UNM Law School Library SB _____
ANALYST Williams

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$379.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: House-passed version of HB 2 creates a new line item appropriation for UNM law library improvements and provides a General Fund appropriation of \$140.0 thousand. Additional funding for this project may be provided by UNM using general fund appropriations from the special projects expansion and flexibility line item.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 562 appropriates \$379.0 thousand from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the Law School Library.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$379 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 2010 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The UNM Law Library is the only academic law library in the state.

House Bill 562 – Page 2

Among its funding priority requests submitted to the HED, UNM requested expansion funding of \$379.8 thousand for the Law School Library. This request was not recommended by HED and not included in the LFC or Executive budget recommendations for higher education.

The UNM Law School Library is receiving an allocation of \$179.8 thousand in general fund appropriation in FY09 from UNM administration based on the special projects lump sum expansion line item in the General Appropriation Act.

The UNM Law School accreditation is based, in part, on the law library budget and associated collections. UNM Law School has argued loss of the lump sum funding allocation could curtail legal resources and services made available to UNM, lawyers, judges and citizens. UNM Law School has also discussed the need for funding to keep print collections current and to continue outreach services.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Is the UNM Law School Library included in the university's allocation of library inflationary factor funding when the Legislature provides funding for this purpose?
2. To what extent does the library charge fees for its services, either to students, the legal community or to the public?

AW/svb