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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/02/09

SPONSOR Lujan, B. LAST UPDATED _____ HM 59

SHORT TITLE American Indian Task Force Recommendations SB _____

ANALYST Burns

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 50 American Indian Post-Secondary Education

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$.01				General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Higher Education Department (HED)

No Response Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 59 requests the Indian Affairs Department monitor the implementation by the University of New Mexico of the recommendations from the University of New Mexico American Indian task force.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained in this bill. There could be a fiscal implication to the Indian Affairs Department having to convene meetings with representatives of UNM board of regents, the office of the provost, the division of equity and inclusion, the secretary of higher education, the Indian affairs department and the tribal higher education consortium. Those included in the meetings would be tasked with further studying the strengths and weaknesses of services and programs provided to Native American Students. Studying these issues could carry a cost with the entities involved as well as carrying out the reporting provisions involved in the memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico American Indian task force developed a working paper outlining specific priorities and recommendations regarding American Indian retention at the University of New Mexico. The task force provided a list of recommendations to the University of New Mexico, many of which have yet to be implemented, including:

- Maintaining a directory of Native American programs that would be a guide to Native American programs, projects and initiatives offered at the university to better serve Native American students;
- Agreeing to a long-term commitment on the part of the university to improve its service to Native American students, faculty, staff and New Mexico Indian communities;
- Establishing a centralized location to track and disburse funds coming to Native American students in the form of tribal scholarships and financial assistance programs and to house a financial aid advisor knowledgeable about scholarship programs available to tribal members and processes to gain access to that aid; and
- Designating an advisor for freshmen and transfer students and creating a mandatory Native American orientation.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Higher Education Department strategic priorities and goals include the following strategic priorities:

1. Increase student access and success,

Goal 1.3: to "Raise the minority representation in higher education to be reflective of the state's population"; and

Goal 1.4: to "Improve the minority participation and graduation rates in graduate and professional programs".

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

IAD would be tasked with organizing meetings and members of those meetings must conduct studies and report the results of those studies to the interim Indian Affairs Committee, HED, and UNM board of regents.

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 50 seeks to create a division of American Indian Postsecondary Education within the HED to provide assistance to public postsecondary educational institutions and tribal colleges in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of recruitment and retention strategies designed for American Indian college students.

ALTERNATIVES

According to HED American Indian education is a statewide issue that goes beyond the University of New Mexico. Having a memorial to study the American Indian Task Force recommendations at UNM is limiting. American Indian students are represented at every state public, private, and Tribal College in New Mexico. It is in the best interest of all American Indian students in New Mexico to not only develop and implement recommendations at the University of New Mexico but to focus on statewide resources and best practices. A comprehensive directory of student services, financial aid opportunities, and staff faculty available would suffice for all New Mexico students both American Indian and non-Indian.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Indian Affairs Department would not be directed to work with UNM, the Higher Education Department and the Tribal Higher Education Consortium to further investigate ways to improve services for Native American students and increase Native American student retention and graduation at UNM.

KJB/svb