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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 268

SHORT TITLE: Land Grant & Acequia Museum

SPONSOR: Serrato

LAST UPDATE: _____ **ORIGINAL DATE:** 2/03/2026 **ANALYST:** Rodriguez

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis
Cultural Affairs Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 268

House Bill 268 (HB268) appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Cultural Affairs Department (DCA) to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a museum of land grants and acequias. This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund for expenditure in FY27. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

As noted by DCA, the appropriation is consistent with similar feasibility studies from 2024 and 2025.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A museum feasibility study typically explores the relevance of, interest in, and potential visitors

to a prospective museum based on the proposed area. HB268 directs DCA to consider buying, leasing, or contracting to use land or buildings that are historically significant to land grants and acequias, including the Mercedes Unidas Center, or locating the museum in Santa Fe or Albuquerque. DCA would most likely need to hire a contractor to conduct the feasibility study required in this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DCA writes that upon enactment of HB239, the agency would develop a scope of work, issue a request for proposals, and oversee qualified contractors to perform the feasibility study. Administrative staff at DCA would be required to manage the process and coordinate with key stakeholders, including the New Mexico Land Grant Council and the New Mexico Acequia Association.

JR/cf/ct