F I S C A L   I M P A C T   R E P O R T

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 179

SHORT TITLE: UNM Medical Spanish Education Program

SPONSOR: Lopez, L/ Sedillo Lopez

LAST UPDATE:　　**ORIGINAL DATE:** 1/30/26　　**ANALYST:** Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION*
(dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	$350.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis
University of New Mexico

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 179

Senate Bill 179 (SB179) appropriates $350 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) health sciences office for diversity, equity and inclusion for Spanish-language health sciences curriculum development and implementation.

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 $350 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM reports:
    The UNM HSC, a Hispanic-Serving Institution and the largest publicly funded institution

awarding health professions degrees in New Mexico, is uniquely positioned to develop New Mexico's next generation of bilingual English /Spanish healthcare workers.

The UNM School of Medicine has offered the Clinical Communication Skills in Spanish (CCSiS) program since 2022 as an opt-in program during the fourth year of medical education. CCSiS directly increases the number of certified health professionals who can provide direct, efficient, empathetic, and linguistically competent care for Spanish-speaking patients across New Mexico.

CJ/sgs/cf/sgs