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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 243

SHORT TITLE: NMSU Student Activities

SPONSOR: Maestas/Munoz

LAST UPDATE: _____ **ORIGINAL DATE:** 2/6/2026 **ANALYST:** Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$5,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

New Mexico State University

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 243

Senate Bill 243 (SB243) appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the purpose of travel, nutrition, and other student-athlete needs.

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 \$5 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (General Appropriation Act of 2026) includes a special appropriation of \$14 million for athletic facilities at NMSU and an additional \$9 million for three years (\$3 million per year) for athletics

department expenses.

NMSU reports

Travel costs have increased due to conference realignment, airfare inflation, and expanded competition requirements. Nutrition standards for student-athletes have advanced, increasing demand for fueling stations and performance-based meal programs. National expectations around student-athlete health, safety, and well-being continue to grow, requiring enhanced medical, mental health, and recovery resources. Without additional support, rising athletics welfare costs place pressure on institutional budgets intended for academic operations.

CJ/cf/ct