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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 244

SHORT TITLE: UNM Student Athletes Funding

SPONSOR: Maestas/Munoz

LAST UPDATE: _____ **ORIGINAL DATE:** 2/6/26 **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.

Relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

University of New Mexico

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 244

Senate Bill 244 (SB244) appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) 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) includes a special appropriation of \$14 million for athletic facilities at UNM and an additional \$12 million for three years (\$4 million per year) for athletics department expenses.

UNM reports:

UNM Athletics has been significantly impacted by the effects of impending conference realignment. This conference realignment was largely influenced by overall investment into athletic programs across the West Coast. Impending conference realignment is likely to impact UNM Athletics' in both revenue and expense categories. UNM projects a decrease in key revenue categories including multi-media rights and men's basketball ticket sales as a result of realignment. New members of the Mountain West Conference include Northern Illinois University (Football) and the University of Hawaii in all sports, which will significantly impact travel expenses. Inflationary increases to key expense categories including travel, equipment, and nutrition also continue to adversely affect the department.

CJ/hg/sgs