

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 234

**52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015**

**Tracking Number:** .198986.1

**Short Title:** Land Grant Ethnohistory Project

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Jacob R. Candelaria

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 17, 2015

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 234 makes an appropriation for the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute at the University of New Mexico (UNM) to make a video record of Spanish and Mexican community land grants, with a focus on their development since 1990.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$204,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), a recurring appropriation for the UNM Land Grant Studies Program was submitted by UNM to HED for review as part of the regular budget process. Currently both the Legislative Finance Committee and the Executive budget requests contain \$131,800 for land grant studies activities at UNM.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to UNM, the video project in SB 234 is entirely separate from the Land Grant Studies Program, which has been in existence since 2008 and which provides research and technical support for community land grants. The institute and the program see merit in a documentary of this type, but consider it to be of a less immediate priority than the ongoing support that they provide to community land grants.

**Background:**

The HED states that the Land Grant Studies Program at UNM was created in 2008 by the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute. The program conducts research and public outreach on New Mexico land grant issues.

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

SB 210 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*

HB 5 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*