

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/06

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 103

SHORT TITLE NMSU American Indian Program Counselor SB _____

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$52.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 99

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 103 appropriates \$52,000 from the general fund to the New Mexico State University general fund to provide for a counselor for students enrolled in the American Indian program. Any unexpended or encumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 will revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$52,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMSU American Indian Program's mission is to provide programs and services designed to enable Native American students to successfully achieve their post-secondary goals. The purpose of the American Indian Program at NMSU is to recruit, retain, and graduate Native American students in higher education. Currently there are 953 Native American students attending NMSU. The main branch shows an enrollment of 469 students, with an approximate enrollment of 480 within NMSU state-wide extensions, however, the requested funds will benefit Native American students enrolled primarily at the main campus.

The American Indian Program (AIP) serves almost all of these 469 students on a consistent basis. Forty percent of the student body access AIP services on a daily basis, another forty percent access services at least two times a week and the remaining twenty percent access services at least once or more a month. Currently, AIP has one individual that serves as both Student Assistant and Recruiter. With the increase in enrollment and students utilizing AIP services, there is a need to divide the workload to more than one individual. The focus of the counselor will be to improve retention and graduation rates.

NMSU entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) with twelve of New Mexico's Tribal governments (Navajo Nation, Jicarilla and Mescalero Apache Nations, and 9 Pueblos) to partner in addressing issues impacting college students. In these MOUs, both the Tribes and the University acknowledged the need for culturally sensitive services. A counselor that will specifically serve Native American students will help address the need for culturally sensitive services in order to improve overall retention rates.

Native American students continue to make significant gains in college enrollment. A recent report on minorities in higher education nationwide found that from 1991 to 2001, Native American enrollment grew by 35 percent, up from 110,000 in 1991 to nearly 150,000 in 2001 (American Council on Education, 2004). 79 percent (79%) of Native American college freshmen in New Mexico, however, drop out during their first year. HB 103 would assist in the effort to retain Native American students to finish college by offering additional services.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department is committed to the adequate and equitable support of necessary instructional student services, and academic support initiatives for all students in New Mexico. Activities to be funded in this proposal are currently recommended for funding through the Instruction and General (I&G) higher education funding formula within the General Appropriation Act. Funding of this program without consideration of similar needs at all institutions could weaken the equitability and thus the integrity of the established I&G formula funding process.

This legislation is not currently included as NMSU Board of Regents legislative priorities for the 2007 fiscal year.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB 99. House Bill 99 appropriates \$62,000 to the New Mexico State University Board of Regents for the purpose of hiring a *recruiter* for the American Indian Program.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The American Indian Program would continue at status quo.

PD/yr