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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/2007

SPONSOR Hamilton LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 400

SHORT TITLE WNMU Chicano/a Institute SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Guambaña

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$95.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 268.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 400 appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to Western New Mexico University for the Chicano/a Institute.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$95,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

WNMU contends that Hispanic students constitute 40% of their student enrollment. Senate Bill 268 would enable the creation of the Chicano/a Institute which would offer education programs that promote understanding of the intellectual, philosophical, and social development issues

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surrounding its Hispanic student population. The Chicano/a Institute would aim toward the development of additional Chicano Studies courses that would constitute a major. According to WNMU, there is substantial student interest in the development of a Chicano/a Institute which thereby has an impact on access to higher education for a historically underserved population as well as an increase in retention rates. House Bill 400 would support both program development activities as well as one full time employee to manage these activities.

AG/nt