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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/2007

SPONSOR B. Sanchez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Land Grant Studies Program SB 236

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 164.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD)
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 236 appropriates \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for expenditure in FY 2008 and FY 2009 to develop a Land Grant Studies Program at UNM in coordination with the UNM Law School, the UNM Center for Regional Studies, and the UNM Hispanic Research Center. The funding to be used to develop and administer the Land Grant Studies Program and to provide for internships and continuing legal education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2009 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Cultural Affairs Department reports that land grant issues are still a current concern to many New Mexicans – particularly in the northern part of the state. Land grant cases (private, community, Pueblo) in Northern New Mexico are one of the most important and most researched historical aspects in New Mexico's history.

Land grant studies reported by CAD include:

- Through efforts by New Mexico Senators Bingaman and Domenici, land grant research was done by the U.S. General Accounting Office (which resulted in a publication on community land grants in 2001)
- There are small organizations such as the (501-c-3 non-profit) *Center for Land Grant Studies* by Malcolm Ebright, director, who provide land grant research in Northern New Mexico
- History and regional studies departments at the University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University, and at the School of Law, University of New Mexico provide research and study opportunities.
- In 2000 Luna Vocational-Technical Institute, Las Vegas, was already proposing a land grant studies center, but did not succeed.

Many of those studies are done as individual, stand-alone projects and a land grant program at the University of New Mexico would draw in these studies and research findings, and would provide students with an organized program and coherent means of researching current land grant issues (and indirectly historical ones as well).

This proposal for \$300,000 was not submitted to the HED by UNM and was not included in HED's funding recommendation for FY08.

BM/csd