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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/01/12

SPONSOR B. Sanchez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Law Land Grant Studies Program SB 94

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 94 (SB94) would appropriate \$300,000 to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY12 and FY13 to establish a Land Grant Studies Program at the University of New Mexico School of Law (UNMSOL). Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2013 shall revert to the General Fund.

This request was not submitted by the University of New Mexico to the Higher Education Department for review. The HED has established a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions. The budget process requires prior approval by the governing body of the university or college. It also provides for analysis of each request by HED, DFA and LFC. The HED recommends that requests that circumvent the formal review process not receive funding in the annual budget but be directed to be resubmitted for funding in FY14.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED analysis shows their operating budget would not have any additional operating impact

should the bill be adopted.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The PED reports that UNM currently provides a Land Grant Studies Program (LGSP) through its Southwest Hispanic Research Institute. Higher Education Department recommends a \$29,200 appropriation for that program for FY13.

According to minutes of the meeting of the Legislative Land Grant Committee, November 21-22, 2011, the LGSP has been in dialogue with Dean Kevin Washburn at UNMSOL since the beginning of this fiscal year about collaborative efforts to develop courses and provide certain services to the NM Land Grant Council. At that meeting, the Land Grant Committee passed a motion to fund \$300,000 for a land grant law studies program at the UNMSOL.

CH/lj