

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 26

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .190609.1

Short Title: UNM Land Grant Studies Program

Sponsor(s): Representatives Jimmie C. Hall and Debbie A. Rodella and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 1, 2013

FOR THE LAND GRANT COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

HB 26 makes an appropriation to develop a land grant studies program at the University of New Mexico (UNM).

Fiscal Impact:

\$117,500 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) bill analysis:

- in the current year (FY 13), the UNM Land Grant Studies Program receives \$30,400 in funding from the Higher Education Department (HED);
- the \$117,500 appropriation for FY 14 is endorsed legislation of the Land Grant Committee (interim committee of the Legislature); and
- while provisions in HB 26 state that funding is to “develop” a land grant study program, UNM program staff report that the more accurate verb would be to “restore” the program to its original level when it was established in 2008.

The DFA analysis also states that the UNM program supports:

- student interns who assist land grant boards of trustees with digitizing materials, websites, public materials, and genealogies;
- graduate student fellows who conduct community-oriented research directed at land grants and acequias;
- development of workshops and training materials to assist community land grants in meeting their statutory obligations as units of government; and
- mapping existing and historic boundaries of land grants.

Substantive Issues:

According to HED's analysis:

- for FY 14, UNM submitted a request for \$30,400 which is flat funding from the previous year;
- the department recommended no increase in funding for this project;
- the department has established a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions; and
- UNM did not submit the appropriation in HB 26 for the department's review.

Background:

According the 2012 Interim Final Report of the Land Grant Committee:

- the legislative Land Grant Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on May 9, 2012;
- the work of committee during the 2012 interim included a review of the:
 - progress and needs of the UNM Land Grant Studies Program;
 - exploration of synergies between the UNM Land Grant Studies Program and the UNM School of Law; and
 - training of lawyers and judges on land grant issues; and
- in a presentation to the interim committee, staff from the UNM Land Grant Studies Program reported that:
 - outreach is a major goal of the program; however it is becoming increasingly difficult with reductions in funding to the program since 2009;
 - the program was to originally receive \$117,500 on a recurring basis; and
 - a major undertaking of the UNM program is focused on developing the historical boundaries of land grants.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 11 *General Appropriation Act of 2013*