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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/13
LAST UPDATED 02/22/13 **HB** 26

SPONSOR Hall

SHORT TITLE UNM Land Grant Studies Program **SB** _____

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$117.5	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, University of New Mexico, Land Grant Studies Program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 University of New Mexico (UNM)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 26 (HB26), a bill making an appropriation to the University of New Mexico (UNM), appropriates \$117.5 thousand from the general fund to UNM for the purpose of expanding the university's existing land grant studies program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 2 includes a general fund appropriation of \$131.6 thousand, a more than 300 percent increase over the program's FY13 general fund level of \$30.4 thousand.

The \$117.5 thousand appropriation in HB 26 would further expand the university's land grant studies program from FY13 general fund level. If HB 26's appropriation was added to the appropriation in HB 2, the program would receive a \$249.1 thousand general fund appropriation for FY14.

The appropriation of \$117.5 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY14 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The university's land grant program employs students and others to perform field work, research, and service to the state's 35 land grants. Individuals participating in the program also assist the New Mexico Land Grant Council, an agency administratively attached to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). The Council offers training and technical assistance for land grants regarding mapping and economic development.

The university and DFA note that increased general fund support would allow hiring more undergraduate and graduate students to do field work for land grants or conduct research tasks associated with the program. Funds would also support efforts to map areas by the New Mexico Land Grant Council as the Council endeavors to meet stewardship obligations under an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The DFA and UNM note that the program will remain limited with existing resources, but the expansion would employ more students, aid more programs, and lead to increased economic development opportunities for land grants. The program files annual measures and performance data with the HED. Recent data shows that limited resources have resulted in modest levels of service to land grants.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB26 duplicates the general fund appropriation to the land grant studies program in the General Appropriation Act. The bill would result in a significant increase over the FY13 general fund appropriation level and the FY14 Executive and LFC general fund recommendations for this program.

THT/blm