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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/21/13

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 538

SHORT TITLE Native American Language Teacher Development SB _____

ANALYST Roberts

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$538.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)

No Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Intertribal Ceremonial Office (ICO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 538 appropriates \$538 thousand dollars from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico to provide professional development and best practices in language instruction for Native language teachers in public schools; technical assistance to tribes in the state for language planning, language program development and evaluation and community leadership development; and community based collaborative research to the tribes in the state regarding appropriate models for Native language maintenance and revitalization.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$538 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM reports:

1. The maintenance and preservation of Native American languages is critical to the survival of all the 22 Native American tribes and pueblos throughout New Mexico.
2. Language is the essential linkage between culture and religion in most Native societies and acts as the agency by which the traditions of the tribe/pueblo are transmitted to future generations.
3. Native languages are endangered because of the effects of:
 - a. Larger cultural influences that have made English the primary and dominant language of pueblo children
 - b. The lack of qualified Native language speakers
 - c. The lack of curriculum and instructional strategies for the teaching of Native languages
4. The *American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center* is the only center of its kind in the U.S. and provides critical services and training to teachers throughout New Mexico to preserve and maintain Native languages.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The board of regents of the University of New Mexico will be responsible for administering the funds to provide professional development and best practices in language instruction for Native language teachers in public schools; technical assistance to tribes in the state for language planning, language program development and evaluation and community leadership development; and community based collaborative research to the tribes in the state regarding appropriate models for Native language maintenance and revitalization.

MIR/blm