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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez/Sedillo Lopez LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/23
SHORT TITLE UNM Health Spanish Education Program BILL NUMBER Senate Bill 386
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$350.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 386

Senate Bill 386 appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of funding the medical Spanish education program at the School of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and College of Population Health.

This bill does not contain an effective date, and as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Bill 386 supports a Spanish communications skills program to increase the number of bilingual Spanish/English health professionals to practice in New Mexico.

UNM reports:

A national survey examining existing Medical Spanish programs in US Medical Schools reported in 2021 that among 155 medical schools in the US, 125 medical schools participated; out of the 125, 98 (78%) offer Medical Spanish education. And 54 percent (53 out of 98) offer formal Medical Spanish courses. The study identified four basic standard components for Spanish medical education programs: a formal curriculum, faculty educators, learners' assessment, and institutional credit.

In 2022, the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, launched a formalized opt-in clinical communications skills in Spanish 4-year longitudinal program. Currently the program has 25 first-year medical students enrolled.

Different pilot programs within the UNM College of Nursing and Pharmacy have been done since 2004 as optional electives. No bilingual or Spanish courses are currently offered at College Population Health

CJ/rl/hg