

LFC Requester:	
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov

{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date 01/21/24
Bill No: SB 41

Sponsor: Siah Correa Hemphill **Agency Name and Code** Senate Bill 41
Short Mental Health Initiatives **Number:** _____
Title: _____ **Person Writing** Phillip Post
Phone: 575-646-4075 **Email** ppost@nmsu.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
	12,393	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: The bill requests \$12,393,200 from the general fund to have social worker supervisors (N = 24) and case managers (N = 34) located at all public post-secondary educational institutions statewide, community colleges, and Native American post-secondary educational institutions. Funds will be used to hire social work supervisors (\$1,992,000), case managers (\$2,206,600), supplies and equipment (\$140,600), development/implementation of a statewide higher education mental health system (\$4,393,200), and training for RAs/staff/faculty at these institutions (\$1,606,800). Lastly, there is funding for a statewide suicide prevention and training program housed within Santa Fe Community College (\$2,000,000).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Although it was not clearly articulated in the current bill, it is assumed the funding would be distributed equally to all post-secondary institutions. The appropriated dollars would have to be expended in FY25, with any remaining balance reverting to the general fund; therefore, higher education institutions like NMSU would need to continue funding any initiatives funded by this appropriation in subsequent years. This would incur significant added costs in subsequent years for higher education institutions. NMSU would approximate these additional costs for each institution at around 1.5 to 2 million dollars.

The bill might be made stronger if it factored administrative costs associated with getting such an endeavor off the ground and how institutions will work towards institutionalizing the programming created from the appropriation. The additional administrative costs (i.e., to oversee supervisors and the program) could cost \$100,000 to \$175,000 annually to each institution.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The current bill would be a welcomed infusion of funding to support mental health services in higher education settings throughout the state. At institutions like NMSU, it would support current mental health services being provided through our Aggie Health and Wellness Center and through our Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology. It would also offer additional employment opportunities for our mental health counselors and social workers graduating from academic programs in the College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation (i.e., School of Social Work and the

Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology)

However, it is uncertain how higher education institutions like NMSU could maintain the mental health services supported by the appropriations from this bill beyond FY 25. We estimate that continuing these support services with the hired personnel (case managers and social workers) could cost institutions 1.5 to 2 million annually (this would include salaries plus benefits).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If this bill is enacted, it will require institutions to oversee (administrative, fiscal overview, etc.) the professional development, social work supervisors, and case managers. The additional administrative costs could cost \$100,000 to \$175,000 annually to each institution.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

See the significant issues section.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Not enacting this bill requires higher education institutions to utilize current resources to provide mental health services to students. At institutions like NMSU, this means relying on the health services and interns within the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department. Currently, because of the high need for mental health services at institutions like NMSU, students may have to wait several weeks before seeing a mental health professional.

AMENDMENTS