

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Connor Jorgensen</b>
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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** 1/29/2024

**Bill No:** SB 86

**Sponsor:** Harold Pope  
**Short Title:** Graduate Scholarship Act

**Agency Name and Code Number:** WNMU-958  
**Person Writing** Julie Morales  
**Phone:** 575-538-6743    **Email** moralesj@wnmu.edu

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
	5,000	Nonrecurring	GF

(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)**

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>						

(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: Relating to higher education. Amending the graduate scholarship act by changing eligibility, limiting eligible fields of study, increasing awards, and making an appropriation.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

- It changes maximum amount a student may receive from \$7200 to "not to exceed 100% of tuition and fees" - the consequence of this is that it reduces the amount we are allowed to allocate to each student and does not allow for transportation costs (important in rural areas), living expenses, textbooks, and supplies, etc.
- At the same time that they are limiting the amount, the word "unpaid" is removed from the assistantship/internship but are not providing us a way to compensate students for those assistantships/internships because they have limited to only "tuition and fees". The scholars would end up limiting our number further, because under this, we would have to expend the GA budget to cover them instead of other students.
- Our total appropriation, statewide, this FY was \$488,300; this proposed appropriation is a 924% increase, but we are not seeing a rollover clause or that it is recurring, so we would be trying to allocate more students (with smaller amounts per student), but may not be able to award them for the duration of their graduate program -for context, this AY we awarded \$6962 for the academic year to each scholar, while 100% of tuition & fees was \$6174, while modest, that allowed for some small amount to cover living expenses, books, etc. Under this proposed change, we would have only been allowed to award \$6174 per student and would have had a balance of \$3152 which would only cover one graduate student for one semester @ \$3087, and we would have a small balance of unexpended funds.
- It removed graduate level nursing students - even further narrowing an already narrow scope.
- The language is still strict by saying "underrepresented in the specific area of graduate study or profession for which the scholarship is being awarded" - this seems to rule out females in high demand graduate fields of education, nursing, and social work since they are all majority female occupations/programs.
- We notice that it does not provide a way to award in the summer term, since it defined academic year as fall and spring.

- Positive - This changes the requirement that students have to be "full-time" and made it 6 credits - this will make it more accessible.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

**ALTERNATIVES**

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

**AMENDMENTS**