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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION

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**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

*Click all that apply:*

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date  
Prepared: 2026-01-20  
Bill No: HB48

Sponsor: Sanchez, Joseph L.  
Short Title: NM TECH SEISMOLOGY EQUIPMENT

Agency Name  
and Code NMHED  
Number:  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	2,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund Affected

<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>or Nonrecurring</b>	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

#### **ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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**

House Bill (HB48) appropriates two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT) for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). The appropriation is for seismology equipment. It will also be utilized to expand monitoring network capabilities in the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources at NMIMT, in partnership with the Oil Conservation Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (NMEMNRD). Any remaining balance at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED) analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMIMT for expenditure in FY27. This nonrecurring lineitem appropriation will support capital equipment and network expansion within the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Any unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

Further analysis will be required from NMMIT and the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources to determine budgetary impact.

NMIMT did not submit this request to NMHED for possible incorporation into the NMHED higher education comprehensive funding recommendation. NMHED has a formal process for reviewing

earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the NMHED funding recommendation.

NMHED submitted its higher education funding recommendation to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (NMDFA) and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) on November 1 as is required by statute. (9-25-9 NMSA 1978)

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources at NMIMT is a key research and public service unit supporting geoscience research, resource development, and environmental monitoring in New Mexico. Expanded seismology equipment and monitoring network capabilities may enhance NMIMT's capacity for research, data collection, and collaboration with state agencies, including the Oil Conservation Division. Collaboration with this division could strengthen higher education's role in monitoring induced seismicity and other energyrelated impacts. Enhanced monitoring infrastructure may also support graduate and undergraduate research opportunities, potentially improving academic programs in geology, geophysics, and related disciplines at NMIMT.

Further analysis will be required from NMIMT and the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources.

## PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB48 does not outline specific performance measures for NMIMT, NMHED, or the Oil Conservation Division.

## ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMIMT, through the Board of Regents and the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, will administer this appropriation, including procurement of seismology equipment, installation and operation of monitoring infrastructure, and partnership responsibilities with the Oil Conservation Division. NMHED will not administer these funds. Any NMHED administrative impact is expected to be limited to monitoring the project as part of its oversight of higher education capital and research initiatives. This impact can likely be absorbed within existing resources.

## CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

## TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB48 is a singlesection appropriation bill with a clear purpose, funding amount, fiscal year of expenditure (FY27), and reversion clause specifying that any unexpended balance shall revert to the General Fund. There are no apparent drafting errors, crossreference issues, or inconsistencies that affect higher education or NMHED.

## OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The appropriation supports a partnership between a public higher education research unit and a state regulatory agency, potentially improving alignment between academic research and state policy needs in energy and natural resources. As a nonrecurring appropriation, HB48 funds equipment and network expansion but does not explicitly address ongoing operating or maintenance costs for the expanded

monitoring network. NMIMT may need to cover these costs through existing resources or future appropriations.

## ALTERNATIVES

NMIMT may seek other funding sources such as federal or private grants, including competitive programs through federal science or energy agencies, to support seismology and monitoring infrastructure. NMIMT may also determine that it has existing funds available to help support this initiative or to match state funds, which could be leveraged to increase the scope or duration of the project.

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

If HB48 were not passed, two million dollars (\$2,000,000) would not be appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMIMT for seismology equipment and expansion of monitoring network capabilities in the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. As a result, NMIMT and the Oil Conservation Division might have fewer resources to expand and modernize seismic monitoring infrastructure, which could limit the state's ability to collect detailed data on seismic activity related to natural and humaninduced causes.

## AMENDMENTS

N/A