

LFC Requester:	LFC
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

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: 2026-01-28
Bill No: HB169

Sponsor: Gonzales, Anita
UNM DEPT. OF
Short Title: CHICANA & CHICANO
STUDIES

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Weber, Jody
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Phone: 5053940030 **Email:** gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	\$250.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund Affected

FY26	FY27	FY28	or Nonrecurring	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	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 169 (HB169) appropriates two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents for FY2027. The funding is designated for the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies (UNM CCS) to support year-round scholarships and statewide outreach for the Curanderismo Traditional Medicine Institute (the Institute). Scholarship awards will prioritize New Mexico residents, individuals from rural, tribal, Indigenous, or other underserved communities, and individuals who intend to provide culturally rooted healing, wellness, or community health services within New Mexico.

Statewide outreach and engagement activities shall include courses, informational sessions, workshops, culturally appropriate educational materials, and collaboration with community-based organizations. Outreach efforts shall engage tribal governments, underserved communities, acequia communities, and rural and frontier populations. They shall recruit participants from diverse New Mexico communities to participate in traditional and heritage medicinal education.

The UNM CCS shall research, study, and develop new courses in Curanderismo traditional medicine to address the cultural and health needs of New Mexico communities.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED's) 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

The UNM CCS was once a Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) funded by NMHED, but was later rolled into NMHED's base funding.

UNM 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.

HB169 does not specify any reporting requirements or set measurable targets for the outreach activities, scholarships, or course development.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill prioritizes individuals from “rural, tribal, Indigenous, or other underserved communities and those intending to provide culturally rooted healing or community health services in New Mexico.” The institute indicates that its courses are offered for informational purposes and are not intended to provide medical training, certification, diagnosis, or treatment services.

The Curanderismo Traditional Medicine Institute offers a summer program and a study abroad program, and UNM offers one three-credit course in the subject. The summer program is open to enrolled UNM students and to community members through continuing education. HB 169 allows for flexibility in how scholarships would be allocated across these participant groups or programs of study.

While HB169 emphasizes outreach and engagement to expand awareness of traditional healing education and pathways, the Institute is intentionally designed as an Indigenous knowledge-centered learning space. Its programming is purposefully non-certifying, preserving the Institute’s role as a sovereign, community-informed platform for cultural and informational learning that exists outside conventional academic and professional training models while supplementing degrees earned in more traditional academic disciplines. The Institute serves as a community-informed platform for Indigenous knowledge sharing within the higher education ecosystem.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB169 allows for institutional discretion in allocating the appropriation between scholarships and course or program development, creating opportunities for the UNM CCS to shape the scope and focus of new courses in alignment with student demand and programmatic goals.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation would be administered by UNM.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB169 was not enacted, the UNM Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies would not receive funding to support year-round scholarships and statewide outreach for the Curanderismo Traditional Medicine Institute.

AMENDMENTS

N/A