

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date Prepared:	<u>2026-01-30</u>
Correction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill No:	<u>HB217</u>

Sponsor:	<u>Terrazas, Luis M.</u>	Agency Name and Code	<u>NMHED</u>
	<u>WESTERN NM UNIVERSITY</u>	Number:	<u></u>
Short Title:	<u>DIGITIZATION FUNDING</u>	Person Writing:	<u>Netzer, Danielle</u>
		Phone:	<u>5056703229</u>
		Email:	<u>danielle.netzer@hed.nm.gov</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0.0	\$3,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund

FY26	FY27	FY28	or Nonrecurring	Affected
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 217 (HB217) appropriates three million dollars (\$3,000,000) from the General Fund to the Western New Mexico University (WNMU) Board of Regents for expenditure in FY27 to digitize files. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

New Mexico Higher Education Department (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

HB217 appropriates three million dollars (\$3,000,000) from the General Fund to WNMU Board of Regents for expenditure in FY27. This is a nonrecurring appropriation with a reversion clause specifying that any unexpended balance at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

WNMU did not submit this as a request to NMHED for possible incorporation into NMHED higher education comprehensive funding recommendation. NMHED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing NMHED funding recommendations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB217 provides funding for file digitization at WNMU but does not specify the scope, type, or purpose of the files to be digitized. Without additional detail in the bill language, it is unclear whether the appropriation is intended for student records, administrative files, institutional archives, library or special

collections materials, or other categories of documents. Digitization projects can support institutional record-keeping, preservation of historical materials, access to research collections, and administrative efficiency, but the lack of specificity in HB217 may create challenges for implementation planning, prioritization, and accountability.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB217 does not outline specific performance measures or reporting requirements for WNMU or NMHED. Without performance measures, it may be difficult to assess the scope, progress, or outcomes of the digitization project funded by this appropriation. If funded, WNMU could develop internal performance indicators, such as the number of files or pages digitized, categories of materials addressed, or improvements in access or retrieval times, but these are not specified in HB217.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

WNMU would administer this appropriation, including determining which files to digitize, procuring digitization services or equipment, managing the digitization process, and ensuring funds are expended consistent with the appropriation.

HB217 does not assign new duties to NMHED, and any NMHED administrative impact is expected to be minimal and limited to general oversight and monitoring of institutional appropriations.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB217 is a single-institution appropriation for a specific institutional project. NMHED's review does not identify direct conflicts or duplications with other higher education legislation. If other 2026 bills provide capital or information technology appropriations to WNMU, those measures may be related but are unlikely to conflict unless they fund the same digitization scope with overlapping appropriations.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB217 is a single-section appropriation bill with a clear appropriation amount, recipient institution, fiscal year (FY27), and reversion clause. The bill does not define "files" or provide guidance on the scope or priorities for digitization, which may be viewed as either allowing institutional flexibility or creating ambiguity in implementation. From a higher education perspective, there are no drafting errors or inconsistencies that would prevent implementation, though more detailed bill language could improve clarity and accountability.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Because HB217 is a nonrecurring appropriation limited to FY27, the bill does not address ongoing costs for maintaining, storing, or providing access to digitized files, which WNMU may need to cover through existing resources or future appropriations. Digitization projects often involve not only scanning or conversion but also metadata creation, quality control, system integration, and long-term digital preservation, and it is unclear from the bill text whether the three million dollars (\$3,000,000) appropriation is intended to cover all phases of such a project.

ALTERNATIVES

WNMU may seek other sources of funding, such as federal or private grants, to support digitization initiatives or related information technology infrastructure improvements. The institution may also

determine that it has existing funds available to supplement or match the state appropriation, which could extend the scope or sustainability of the digitization effort.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB217 is not enacted, three million dollars (\$3,000,000) will not be appropriated from the General Fund to the WNMU Board of Regents for file digitization.

AMENDMENTS

N/A