

LFC Requester:	
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}

Date Prepared: 02/02/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 268 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: <u>Rep L Serrato</u>	Agency Name and Code Number: <u>Department of Cultural Affairs – 505</u>
Short Title: <u>Land Grant & Acequia Museums</u>	Person Writing: <u>Greg Geisler</u>
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	GF

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
0	0	0	N/A	NA/

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	0	0	0	0	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 268 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund to the Cultural Affairs Department (CAD) for FY27 to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a statewide Land Grant and Acequia Museum. The study will evaluate costs for establishing a museum that may involve the purchase, lease, or contracted use of land or buildings. Potential sites to be considered include the Mercedes Unidas Center (the former Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center), as well as locations in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Unexpended funds at the end of FY27 will revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$100,000 appropriation is a nonrecurring expense. While this covers the initial study, the bill does not provide for the subsequent capital outlay or recurring operational costs required to staff and maintain a new state museum facility.

The appropriation amount is consistent with the initial studies for the National Museum of New Deal Art (2024) and the Española Lowrider Museum (2025). These amounts provide initial feasibility study, but not detailed building programming, architectural options, site preparation costs, costs, nor detailed operational or programmatic details

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

None identified.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If this bill is enacted, existing CAD staff will develop a scope of work, issue a Request for Proposals, and oversee a qualified contractor to perform the feasibility study. Administrative staff time within CAD will be required to manage the process and coordinate with key stakeholders, including the New Mexico Land Grant Council and the New Mexico Acequia Association.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Companionship: Relates to HB 21 (2026), which seeks to create a permanent infrastructure trust fund for acequias and land grants.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without this appropriation, current efforts to document and preserve land grant and acequia heritage will continue to be managed through existing, separate programs and without a centralized physical hub for public interpretation and statewide coordination.

AMENDMENTS

None identified.