

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: 2026-02-04
Bill No: HB297

Sponsor: Torres-Velaquez E., Diane
UNM PROJECT ECHO

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Sena, Kathleen
150530926 kathleen.sena@hed.
Phone: 48 **Email:** nm.gov

Short Title: _____

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	\$2,400.0	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 297 (HB297) appropriates two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) from the General Fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) through Fiscal Year 2029 (FY29). The funding is intended to support Project ECHO structured literacy educator support initiatives.

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

HB297 appropriates two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) from the General Fund to the UNM Board of Regents for expenditure in FY27 through FY29.

Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY29 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico higher education institutions (HEIs) are currently working to implement programs and curricula to prepare future and current teachers to incorporate structured literacy into instruction for students in public and charter schools across New Mexico, in alignment with requirements established by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). Numerous models are used by teacher

education programs across the United States to provide teachers with the skills needed to integrate structured literacy into their curricula. Project ECHO should partner with NMPED on any programs dedicated to structured literacy to ensure it aligns with state standards.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB297 does not outline specific performance measures. However, if funded, the UNM Board of Regents should develop performance measures with Project ECHO.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The UNM Board of Regents would administer this program in collaboration with Project ECHO.

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 HB297 is not enacted, the UNM Board of Regents would not receive the appropriation of two million four hundred dollars (\$2,400,000) to support Project ECHO's structured literacy educator support initiatives.

AMENDMENTS

N/A