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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: 2026-01-23
Bill No: SB106

Sponsor: Pope, Harold
GRADUATE
Short Title: SCHOLARSHIP ACT
FUNDING

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Romero, Heather
heather.romero@hed.nm.gov
Phone: 5053653198 **Email:** nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	\$5,000.0	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

Senate Bill 106 (SB106) makes an appropriation to 21-21G NMSA 1978, the Graduate Scholarship Act.

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

SB106 appropriates five million (\$5,000,000) from the General Fund to the Graduate Scholarship Fund for expenditure in FY27.

Unexpended balances at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Graduate scholarships are funded through the NMHED General Appropriations Act. The FY26 general fund appropriation for the graduate scholarships was \$488,300 and supported approximately 52 students based on funding criteria. The average per-semester cost of full tuition and fees in FY26 for New Mexico institutions offering graduate programs is \$4,325.

The Graduate Scholarship Program permits part-time enrollment, particularly during the final stages of a graduate program when a student is completing a thesis or dissertation. Students must enroll in a

minimum of six credit hours, maintain continuous enrollment, and hold a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. To remain eligible for continued scholarship awards, students must enroll in consecutive academic years.

Graduate scholarship recipients may receive an award of up to one hundred percent of tuition and fees for their graduate program at the eligible institution for the academic year. Awards may continue until the student earns a terminal degree or has received eight semesters of scholarship support, whichever occurs first. Recipients must agree to serve the eligible institution during the academic year in an internship or assistantship approved by the student's academic department.

Additional funding proposed under SB106 for graduate scholarships would enable NMHED to allocate increased funding to postsecondary institutions that offer graduate-level programs. This increased allocation could expand scholarship availability and potentially support more than 1,000 graduate students statewide.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB106 does not outline specific performance measures.

However, NMHED is required to report performance measures annually.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMHED shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of the Graduate Scholarship Act.

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

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A