

LFC Requester:

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 1/26/2026 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB106 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Harold Pope **Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology 962  
**Person Writing fsdfs** Analysis: The VPAF Office  
**Short Title:** GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP ACT FUNDING **Phone:** 575-835-5606 **Email:** VPAF@nmt.edu

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
\$5,000.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>FY29</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	No Significant Fiscal Impact	No Significant Fiscal Impact	No Significant Fiscal Impact			

(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**

Synopsis:

- Making an appropriation to the higher education department to carry out the purposes of the Graduate Scholarship Act.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

NMIMT is in support of the bill.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Not expected.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Not expected.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Not expected, provided no additional reporting or data analysis is required.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None for NMIMT.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

Not expected.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None for NMIMT.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

NMIMT fully supports the bill as written; the following suggestions are offered as potential ways to further maximize the impact of these funds on New Mexico's STEM workforce, to leverage additional external fellowship funding, and to enhance our ability to support graduate students that are either from New Mexico or have the potential to remain in the State and contribute to its success:

- a) We believe it would be beneficial for all institutions to receive a minimum number of scholarships (e.g., 50), after which funding allocations can scale based on the number of minority graduate students exist at the institution. For institutions that have a wider breadth of disciplines, they will naturally have a greater population of minority graduate students.
- b) While we appreciate the intention for this bill to serve students from NM, we also hope to attract students to NM who can stay and work in the national laboratories and companies in NM. Given the trend of declining college-age student populations, providing institutions with flexibility to recruit students to come (and ideally stay) in NM would be beneficial to the state. We believe this can be accomplished by allowing institutions to provide a subset of their awards to non-NM residents.
- c) Finally, NMIMT would like the ability to grant an exception to the minority and/or resident status. This can be replaced with a requirement that the student have a fellowship whose funding agency requires the institution to provide a tuition waiver. This scholarship could then be used as a matching fund for the fellowship provided by an external funding agency. At this time, we believe there are over 10 graduate students who have these types of fellowships at NMIMT.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

This bill has a positive impact on graduate students and provides institutions with flexibility in supporting them. For the US to remain competitive, investment in graduate education is essential especially in STEM disciplines. Not enacting this bill will limit our flexibility in supporting this population. The support in this bill enhances our ability to attract and retain graduate students. For NMIMT, this is in the high demand areas of STEM disciplines which are much needed by the State of NM and aligned with its strategic goals.

## **AMENDMENTS**