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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

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{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: 2026-01-29
Bill No: SB179

Sponsor: Lopez, Linda M.
UNM MEDICAL
Short Title: SPANISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Agency Name and Code: NMHED
Number: _____
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0.0	350.0	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 179 (SB179) appropriates three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) from the General Fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) and Fiscal Year 2028 (FY28). The appropriation is for the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC) Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to support Spanishlanguage health sciences curriculum development and implementation, thereby enhancing the medical Spanish education program for HSC students. Any unexpended balance at the end of FY28 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

SB179 provides a timelimited, nonrecurring appropriation of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) from the General Fund to the UNM Board of Regents, available in FY27 and FY28. The appropriation does not flow through NMHED's comprehensive funding recommendation process, and SB179 does not include additional appropriations to NMHED.

UNM 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.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Medical Spanish proficiency can support communication between health professions students and Spanishspeaking patients and communities, which is relevant to the educational mission of UNM HSC. SB179 provides targeted support for Spanishlanguage health sciences curriculum development and implementation, which may enhance language training opportunities for students in medicine and other health disciplines at UNM, but does not directly affect other public colleges and universities. NMHED may note this as part of broader efforts across higher education to prepare a health workforce that can serve linguistically diverse populations in New Mexico.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB179 does not include explicit performance measures or reporting requirements for UNM or NMHED. If funded, UNM could develop internal performance indicators, such as the number of students enrolled in the enhanced medical Spanish curriculum, completion of new course modules, or student participation levels, but these measures are not specified in the bill. There are no direct performance implications for NMHED.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The UNM Board of Regents, through the HSC Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, would administer the appropriation, including curriculum development, implementation, and associated expenditures. SB179 does not assign new functions or duties to NMHED, and any NMHED administrative impact is expected to be minimal and limited to general monitoring of higher education appropriations.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

There is no apparent statutory or fiscal conflict between SB179 and other highereducation or healthworkforce bills, including Senate Bill 159 (SB159), House Bill 66 (HB66), Senate Bill 11 (SB11), and Senate Bill 14 (SB14).

SB179 is related in a broad policy sense to healthworkforce and access bills (such as SB159, HB66 /SB14, and SB11) because it supports language skills for health sciences students, while those other bills support graduate medical education and loan repayment for health professionals. From NMHED's perspective, these measures operate in parallel rather than as formal companion bills: SB179 is a focused UNM HSC curriculum appropriation that complements, but does not intersect with, the workforce financing tools in the other legislation.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB179 is a singlesection appropriation bill with a clear amount, purpose, time frame (FY27 through FY28), and reversion clause. There are no evident drafting issues that affect higher education or NMHED, and the bill does not reference Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 or other highereducation statute sections.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Because SB179 is limited to UNM HSC, other public colleges and universities with healthrelated programs do not receive similar support for Spanishlanguage curriculum development, which reflects a targeted rather than systemwide approach. As a nonrecurring appropriation, the bill does not address how ongoing curriculum maintenance or expansion beyond FY28 would be funded once the appropriation is expended or reverts.

ALTERNATIVES

UNM may seek other sources of funding, such as federal or private grants or internal reallocation, to support Spanishlanguage curriculum development and implementation if SB179 is not enacted or if additional resources are needed beyond FY28.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB179 is not enacted, three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) will not be appropriated from the General Fund to the UNM Board of Regents for Spanishlanguage health sciences curriculum development and implementation for the medical Spanish education program. The UNM HSC Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion may have fewer dedicated resources to enhance medical Spanish offerings for HSC students, and any expansion or improvement of these activities would need to rely on existing funds or other external sources.

AMENDMENTS

N/A